

Community Players of Salisbury University
BOARD MEETING
May 4, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Dasher, presiding, David Allen, Sammy Barnes, Bobbie Calloway, Cass Dasher, Robin Finley, Ken Johnson, Charlie Linton, Darrell Mullins, Rusty Mumford, Kel Nagel, Tom Robinson, Shelbie Thompson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Bosies, Lynne Bratten, April Currey, Coreen Dolly, John Dolly, Gary Finley, Jerry Gietka, Kyle Hayes, Dory Hayman, Ben Huffman, Betsy Metzger, Debby Nagel, Susan Robinson, Jessica Windsor,

President Dasher called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Charlie Linton/Rusty Mumford moved to approve minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting. The Recording Secretary's notes indicate that there was a correction regarding tickets; those notes have no specifics and will need to be addressed at the May meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Linton reported that it had been a good month. A discussion ensued regarding how to distribute Patron funds. Should we, perhaps, we should distribute them equally across all productions? It was agreed we would discuss the issue at an upcoming meeting. Treasurer's Report was accepted as distributed.

President's Report: President Dasher reported that Tom Welsh needs show descriptions, ratings, and proposed venues from next season's directors. That information should also be sent to Shelbie Thompson for social media venues.

Committee Reports

Facilities: Ken Johnson reported as follows:

- The warehouse is currently a mess in large part due to borrowers returning items. He will work on it over the summer.
- We need to work on our policies for those who want to borrow items. Some items have not been returned in the same condition as when they were borrowed.
- The gutter needs attention.
- Concern over people using the parking lot for "extra-curricular activities." Perhaps some signage such as "No Loitering" should be posted.

Grants: Gary Finley reported as follows:

- We were approved for the Maryland State Arts Council grant in the amount of \$3,500
- The funds need to be allocated by June 30.
- We discussed a number of options for how to allocate funds. The issue was tabled until the June meeting; bring suggestions.
- We also will be given an "Organizations Grant." Out of a score of 100, we received a 75, rendering us eligible for the grant. Based on our score, the Maryland State Arts Council will let us know the amount, which we will receive each year for 3 years. After that, we will have to re-apply.
- We have the opportunity to apply for a Covid-relief grant from SWAC. He needs the initial application. Charlie Linton will look for it. The deadline to apply is May 13. We need to explain how we have been impacted since last year. We need to look at our budget prior to the Pandemic.
- No one made use of the courtesy tickets we gave to "Spelling Bee."
- We might consider offering "Senior" tickets for "Senior Follies."
- Rusty Mumford reported that residents of Mallard Landing could not attend due to Covid.
- For "Jesus Christ SuperStar" we should offer courtesy tickets to young students. Darrell Mullins will reach out to SU students who are in the area during the summer.
- We need to document courtesy-ticket numbers for the Maryland State Arts Council.

- Robin Finley suggested that perhaps we could have an event, perhaps a “Reading” for Black History Month.
- Debby Nagel suggested we reach out to churches to publicize “SuperStar.”
- Jerry Gietka suggested we reach out to homeless organizations for courtesy tickets.
- Cass Dasher suggested we reach out to the Fenix Youth Project organization for courtesy tickets.
- Any suggestions on recipients of courtesy tickets should be sent to Gary Finley.

Hospitality: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- Do we want to have a Barbecue this summer?
- Do we want a Kick-Off dinner for the upcoming season?
- We should discuss this at future meetings.

House: Kel Nagel reported as follows:

1. He will not be continuing as House Manager.
 - Betsy Metzger has agreed to take on that role. She will need help, especially for “Jesus Christ SuperStar” ushers.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Pete Cuesta reported as follows: No report

Membership: Cass Dasher reported as follows:

- Reminded us to be current on membership in order to be able to vote in the Board of Directors election at the June meeting.
- Pay by August or September.

Newsletter: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- Reminder that the deadline for submitting newsletter content is the 15th of each month
- The May newsletter will go out once we know the nominees for Board seats.

Nominating: No report. An update will be covered in New Business.

Patrons: Kel Nagel reported Patron letters will go out in July

Production: No Report

Publicity: Debby Nagel reported as follows:

- She will be out of town in July.
- Sharon Benchoff will send season information to SWAC for their calendar.

Scholarship: Lynne Bratten reported as follows:

- Scholarships were presented to recipients in a nice ceremony.
- She read a letter of thanks from recipient Lilly Dasher

Social Media: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- It was a good month
- Reached 44,000 accounts in April
- Posted scholarship winners
- Posted “Jesus Christ SuperStar” rehearsal photos
- Please share posts with social media friends and families.

Tickets: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- We have 22 tickets for cancelled performances of “Senior Follies.” Those who purchased those have not responded to options presented. As such, we should consider them as donations.
- Overall, we sold 458 tickets to “Senior Follies.”
- We did refund a few tickets.
- Some chose to exchange the “Senior Follies” tickets for performances of “SuperStar.”
- We do absorb credit card fees for refunded tickets but the fees are minor.
- We had very few “no shows” for “Senior Follies.”
- We have trained 4 people on how to use the “On The Stage” platform as the majority of “regulars” will be on stage for “SuperStar.”

Old Business

Board Nominations: It was reported that:

- Tom Robinson for Vice-President
- Darrell Mullins for Recording Secretary
- Rusty Mumford for Corresponding Secretary

Rusty Mumford/Kel Nagel moved to close nominations. Motion passed.

“Senior Follies:” Jerry Gietka reported as follows:

- The show was a financial and artistic success
- Appreciative of the cast and crew, especially in dealing with Covid obstacles.

“Jesus Christ SuperStar:” Melissa Casher, for Sharon Benchoff, reported as follows:

- The cast sounds great.
- Act 1 is fully blocked/choreographed.
- Act 2 is coming along nicely.
- Susan Robinson will soon begin orchestra rehearsals.

85th Season Fundraiser/Concert: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:

- He is in contact with Fred at Revival.
- He is developing materials for publicity.
- He suggests \$25 per ticket and waiting for Fred to confirm.
- This will be a win-win for Players. Revival will provide staff for Social Media
- Rehearsals will begin after “Jesus Christ SuperStar” closes.
- Looking at August 5 and 6 for performance dates.
- The ASCAP Covid license is due for renewal. Cost is \$264.13

Rusty Mumford/Shelbie Thompson moved to renew the ASCAP license. Charlie Linton commented that if we join AACT we get a 10% discount on the ASCAP license. Tom Robinson amended the motion as follows: We should renew the ASCAP license for a fee up \$264.13. Motion passed.

Rusty also suggested that at the Revival event, we provide wine glasses as a gift to members who attend. He will provide pricing information at the June meeting. Cass Dasher will send him the current number of members.

Musician Fees: Darrell Mullins reported that he will survey area musicians who are familiar with the role of music director about appropriate stipends.

SWAC Fundraising Event: Melissa Dasher, for Sharon Benchoff, reported as follows:

- 3 songs were performed.

- You could hear a pin drop.
- Put CPOS post-card in 50 "Friends of the Arts" gift bag.

Other Old Business

"Jesus Christ SuperStar" cast/crew ticket contest. Rusty Mumford reported that winning cast/crew member will win a \$50 gift card to Regal Cinemas.

CPOS T-Shirts: Tom Robinson reported that t-shirts are available for \$25. Let him know if you want one.

New Business

Loading/Renting/Sets/Costumes/Props: Ken Johnson, for Sharon Benchhoff, reported as follows:

- Concern about items that come back but not in the same condition as when borrowed.
- Concern that some items do not come back.
- We need to make sure that the appropriate person signs off
- Return materials to a specific platform so that Ken can make sure they get returned to the proper location.
- We need a better, clearer, policy.

Lynne Bratten reported similar concerns as follows:

- Can we implement a system that includes compensation to help refurbishing/replacing borrowed items?
- Should we use an invoice?
- Can we require that those who borrow costumes have them cleaned before returning them.
- The by-laws state that members can borrow but she is not always in the loop.

Jerry Gietka suggested that we have a policy with a financial penalty if violated.

Melissa Dasher suggested we put signs on every door regarding borrowing policy.

Matt Bogdan asked if the doors were "lockable."

David Allen commented that people may need access for other reasons.

Rusty Mumford suggested that there should be a "Section Heads" meeting to review/revise policy. Once done, the policy could be put on doors and in the newsletter.

Tom Robinson suggested that violators should no longer be allowed on the property.

Betsy Metzger commented that a monetary punishment should help in following policy.

Furnace Town Opportunity: Matt Bogdan reported as follows:

- In his role as "Special Productions Coordinator," we are welcome to perform at Furnace Town events.
- Furnace Town is a good venue for special productions.

Melissa Dasher commented as follows:

- Reminded us that Alexa Nastassi sent a link to a video about developing a Theatre Camp that would take place over two weeks resulting in a final performance.
- Melissa thinks this a good way to give back to the community. She works at Coastal Hospice which is planning camp for kids. This might be a good fit but perhaps for next year so that we have more time to prepare.
- Wor-Wic is looking for someone to provide drama opportunity in the summer; this might be a good opportunity for Alexa. Rusty Mumford agreed.

Cass Dasher suggested we tell Alexa that we support her idea but next summer would be better.

Cass Dasher/David Allen moved to form a committee to explore the idea. Kel Nagel suggested we could use grant funds for the project. Jerry Gietka commented that he runs a similar program and would like to invite Alexa to apply to be an assistant for that program.

Special Productions: Matt Bogdan reported as follows:

- He proposes a production of “Winnie the Pooh.”
- He completed the form that Melissa Dasher has shared with the Board.

Charlie Linton/Tom Robinson moved approval of the production. Rusty Mumford expressed concern about having two productions in the same month. Matt Bogdan responded that there would be no conflict with the 85th Season Fundraiser. Jerry Gietka commented that rehearsal/performance of “The Twain Show” interfered with rehearsal for “Senior Follies.” Matt Bogdan responded that he accommodated all conflicts that actors put on the audition form.

Tom Robinson called the question. Motion passed with one abstention.

Building Use Request: Rusty Mumford requested approval to have a graduation party for his daughter on June 11. He commented that the set for “Jesus Christ SuperStar” will have been moved out during the day, leaving the facility available for the party. Ken Johnson expressed concern about how long it will take to move the set out. Rusty Mumford responded that he will work around that issue. Kel Nagel reminded Rusty Mumford that no alcohol could be served. Rusty Mumford responded “Of course.”

Other New Business

Board Member Elections: Kel Nagel predicted that there could be ties in the election results. He proposed a “weighted” ballot. Charlie Linton responded that we have a way to break a tie—the President does not vote unless there is a tie.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

“Twain” Show: Director Matt Bogdan reported as follows:

- A successful run
- \$1,400 in profits
- Four shows

“Senior Follies:” Director Jerry Gietka reported as follows:

- Things are going well.
- The show has already been financial success given how little needs to be purchased.
- The show is an artistic success; good cast.

Melissa Dasher reported as follows:

- A cast member tested positive for Covid
- What now?

Jerry Gietka commented as follows:

- We can find someone to fill in
- Perhaps we can have someone hold the book and deliver lines using a microphone

Melissa Dasher commented that since the actor was at the run-though last night, the entire cast/crew has been exposed. Also, is it possible to postpone upcoming performances? In addition, will Wor-Wic charge an additional rental fee?

Kel Nagel asked what our liability is in a situation like this.

Rusty Mumford questioned whether or not Wor-Wic would be available during Easter weekend. In addition, we have to report to Wor-Wic about this. Perhaps we could postpone and do it with masks and social distancing.

Shelbie Thompson stated that Wor-Wic would be closed during Easter weekend. In addition, she would recommend using an actor in the original cast rather than a fill-in. She needs to be notified asap so that she can pull social media posts if necessary.

Cass Dasher suggested we reach out to Wor-Wic to ask about availability if we postpone.

Pete Cuesta stated that Covid numbers have increased. Perhaps we entering a new wave.

Matt Bogdan commented that we should postpone, better safe than sorry.

Sharon Benchoff/Cass Dasher moved that we postpone upcoming performances if it feasible to get the Wor-Wic stage during the weekend after Easter. Motion passed.

Additional discussion as follows:

- If Wor-Wic is not available, we should research other venues.
- Rusty Mumford will send a sample message to share with current reservations. He will send it to us for feedback.

Jesus Christ SuperStar: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- The show has been cast, for the most part. There will be one more callback.
- First rehearsal will be this Sunday.
- The cast list will be posted to our website.

Melissa Dasher asked if we could perhaps have a "Swing Cast."

Sharon Benchoff responded no.

85th Season Fundraiser/Concert: Rusty Mumford distributed a detailed document summarizing the feedback to this event during the March meeting. Questions/Comments were as follows:

- Sharon Benchoff asked why do a concert if people can attend a celebration for free? Rusty Mumford commented that staging a concert at "Revival" would draw in people who would not attend the celebration.
- Cass Dasher asked if "Revival" have an average audience size? Rusty Mumford responded that the size of the audience is "event specific."
- Shelbie Thompson asked if "Revival" would be the only venue for this performance. In addition, perhaps we could offer a discount to members. Jessica Windsor replied that the staging would be very different based on venue. (NOTE: The recording secretary inferred that this might be a reason that we could not easily stage the concert in multiple venues). Rusty Mumford commented that he was fine with either approach.
- Matt Bogdan suggested that we could perhaps incorporate some of the celebratory activities with a performance at "Revival."
- Sammy Barnes asked if performance dates had been selected. Rusty Mumford responded that he prefers August dates.

- Darrell Mullins/Shelbie Thompson moved that the performance should take place at “Revival” on August 5 and 6. Rusty Mumford responded that he will report back on whether or not those dates are available.

Musician Fees: Melissa Dasher reported that she had sent questions to a number of potential music directors in the area but has decided she has to recuse herself from this project because her husband, Ken Dasher, is one of those experts. Darrell Mullins volunteered to take over the project.

Special Productions: Matt Bogden reported as follows:

- Why should we do these productions? They are beneficial.
- He created a proposal form that was distributed to those in attendance.
- A “Special Production” committee will vet proposals.
- Feedback from the committee will be sent to the Board of Directors.
- The Vice-President will chair the “Special Productions” committee as well as the regular one.
- Charlie Linton/Sharon Benchoff moved approval. Motion Passed.

New Business

Furnace Town performance. Sharon Benchoff moved to table this until next meeting. Motion Passed

SWAC Fundraising Event: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- We have been invited to perform at SWAC’s “Arts on the River” event.
- The plan would be to perform some songs from “Jesus Christ SuperStar.”
- We would be able to advertise “Jesus Christ SuperStar” as well as our upcoming season.

Charlie Linton/Sammy Barnes moved that we participate in the event. Motion Passed.

Survey Monkey: Sharon Benchoff reported as follows:

- There is no longer a free “basic” version of Survey Monkey
- Fees are \$16.00 per month or \$192 annually.
- Unlimited number of surveys but each is limited to ten questions.

It was suggested that we research using “Google Drive” to see if we can get the same functionality.

Loaning/Renting Sets, Costumes, Props: Sharon Benchoff moved to table this issue until the May meeting. Motion passed.

2022-23 Season: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:

- The Production Committee’s original recommendation was approved with a clear majority.

Other New Business: Charlie Linton announced that we received a note of thanks from the Viese family. NOTE: The recording secretary did not have notes specifying how we contributed. Assuming it was flowers sent.