FCT Board of Directors Meeting

20 Jan 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Members present: Don Richardson, Mariellen Hagy, Tim Kirk, Becky Farris, Mike Markley

Members absent: Laurie Bersack, Rodney Smith, Sandy Steinmeyer, Tom Bohacek

Guests: Leland Shook, Christie Clark, Susan Noe

**Minutes**: It was moved by Tim Kirk and seconded by Mike Markley that the November minutes be approved. They were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report** (Mariellen): Our financial status and cash flow are very good at this point in the year. We have a healthy balance in the checking account due to very good box office results this fall and other factors. There was discussion of moving some of the balance back into the savings account to replace recent drawdowns, but this will be held until we see the final results of the fiscal year. Good financial performance will definitely help us get a renewal of our VCA grant and win other grants. Upon motion by Mike and second by Tim, the Treasurer’s report was approved.

**Business Report** (Don): Don reported that a second set of exit steps for the trailer has been delivered, one set has been levelled, and the additional 3 ground anchors are in. He hopes to close out final inspection with the county shortly. Once final inspection is complete, our contractor will install skirting around the base of the trailer. Improvements are still needed, including painting the exterior of the trailer and installing carpet in the tunnel.

There has been no further discussion with Parks and Rec concerning our lease extension or the seating replacement project.

Don will work with Mike to provide Christie with a performance review, since she did not have one last year.

**Marketing Report** (Christie): Plans are underway for FCT's Fabulous Forties Fundraising Gala. Christie has begun to develop the media material for marketing the Gala. The price will be $50 a ticket, with food and open bar provided! The funds raised will go towards reupholstering the seats in the theatre. The location will be the Inn at Vint Hill, with a band and swing dancing. Two sponsors have been found to cover the cost of the band.

Christie proposed purchasing some of the FCT logo apparel in advance to display and sell at auditions, rehearsals, shows and events. The Board decided that this was a good investment, as it will return a profit, and agreed to advance $2100 for the project.

FCT will be represented at two upcoming events with a booth and promotional material, the Home and Garden Show on April 26 at the Fauquier Fairgrounds and the Warrenton Spring Festival on May 17. Little Women or another group from FCT will provide entertainment at the Warrenton Spring Festival.

**Artistic Director’s Report** (Leland): Leland presented his proposed 2014-15 Main Season (see below) for Board approval. Don and Leland will get together on how to make this work with the calendar. Upon motion by Mariellen Hagy and second by Becky Farris, the season below was approved:

1940’s USO Show (musical), director Susan Noe, producer Dawn Fansler

A Christmas Story, director Evelyn Rice, producer Leland Shook

Wait Until Dark, director Ken Wayne, producer TBD

Captains Courageous (musical), director Peter Fakoury, producer TBD

Twelfth Night, director Tim Bambara, producer TBD

Honk (musical), director Scott Heine, producer TBD

Discussion ensued about ways we could take advantage of the structure of the season to offer more than one Subscription package and perhaps increase sales. Christie will study this and suggest options.

The Artistic Roundtable will be deferred to a more convenient time later in the spring. Leland has secured audition and rehearsal space at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Warrenton for two days a week through the spring, and is working on securing the same at the Masonic Lodge in Warrenton. The room at the gym adjacent to the theater is not an alternative due to the hourly rental being even higher than the theatre rent on a performance night.

**Strategic Planning Report** (Mike): Mike has begun work on our application for renewal of the VCA grant and is pursuing other possible grant sources, including Target and the NEA’s Our Town program. He presented results from our first survey using Survey Monkey, which generated enough responses to be considered statistical valid for our planning purposes. Many folks offered suggestions for shows and programs they would like to see. Results were mostly in line with what we would expect, although there were a few surprises (the biggest Facility-related concern by far was the condition of the theatre bathrooms, not the seating).

**Other Business** (Don): Don reminded Board members that we need to start the process of recruiting new members of the Board. Three seats will need to be filled at the Annual Meeting in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be held in the VHEDA Boardroom on Monday, February 17th at 6:00pm.