

MINUTES OF
VILLAGE OF SKOKIE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BOARD
Monday, January 9, 2023 7:00 P.M.

A *REGULAR MEETING* OF the Performing Arts Center Board was held at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, Illinois, on Monday, January 9, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. New Executive Director Lynn Cannon was introduced. Janis Fine then made the motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Andrea Siegel. The Minutes were then approved by the Board.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Terrence Guolee; Janis Fine; Alex Franz; Barbara Reeder; Andrea Siegel; Ann Tennes (via phone)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Layfer; Rene Roy; Norm Rosen (ex-officio)

OTHERS PRESENT: Executive Director Lynn Cannon; Interim Executive Director/Director of Marketing & Communications Joseph Alaimo; Manager of Concerts/Marketing Assistant Merrill Miller; Business Manager Steph Shryock; Regional Vice President, VenuWorks HR Cook,

OPERATIONS REPORT:

In this time of transition, Alaimo said department heads have been taking care of things and turning to him when decisions needed to be made. John Siehl was in the office mid-December so he was on hand for anything. Beyond that, Alaimo occasionally reached out to John and/or H.R. Cook by phone when needed, but mostly they kept things moving along.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

Alaimo reported that canopy renovation project bids came in and further discussions were had to get to a place to be able to move the project forward. Work is still scheduled to begin in March.

New back-up power generator that supplies electricity to emergency lights project is underway. Installation dates pending equipment delivery.

PROGRAMMING/MARKETING:

Since the November PAC Board meeting, the Center presented several successful productions including a sold-out performance of *Swan Lake* on November 16, Canadian Brass on November 18, Fleetwood Mask on November 19, and three performances of *The Nutcracker* on December 2 and 3, which was nearly 90% sold and was well over projected goals even with performance date shifts (Fri & Sat instead of Sat & Sun).

The NSCPA Foundation held its annual benefit in association with the Fleetwood Mask performance on November 19. It was a well-attended pre-show event that included a 50/50 raffle in the main lobby.

Recent rental events included WBAC Grand Prix (Nov 26) which was an all-day ballet dance competition, and a sold-out performance of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus on December 4. The Center's calendar over the next few months is packed with rental clients nearly every weekend and many weeknight rehearsal dates as well.

Music Theater Works closed out their 2022 season with a run of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* in the Center Theatre from December 14 through January 1. Their 2023 season kicks off in March with *Avenue Q* in the North Theatre. Northlight Theatre presented *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* in the

North Theatre from November 26 through December 24. Their next production is *Andy Warhol in Iran* in the North Theatre from January 19 to February 19.

Alaimo and Merrill Miller reported on marketing plans for upcoming shows. New and returning artists were reviewed for Board endorsement, including *Dog Man: The Musical*, Christone Kingfish Ingram, Little Feat, Melissa Villasenor, Jordan Rudess, Justin Hayward, Craig Robinson, Gavin DeGraw, Atlanta Rhythm Section, Fishbone, Brad Williams, Martin Barre, Colin Hay, Timothy B. Schmidt (of The Eagles), The Wallflowers, and Toad the Wet Sprocket.

FINANCIALS:

The financial statements through November 30, 2022 reflect a net loss of \$108,533.21, which is \$70,171.67 worse than budget. This is an improvement on the YTD budget variance since August 31. The financials include \$12,750 in grant income that was received in November.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussions about a financial breakdown by VenuWorks staff by March and Illinois grant 3.6M budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. after a motion by Barbara Reeder, a second by Janis Fine, and a unanimous vote of all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Alaimo