

MINUTES OF  
VILLAGE OF SKOKIE  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BOARD  
Tuesday, October 12, 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 Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

*CALL TO ORDER:* The Regular Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Janis Fine 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; Barry Layfer; Rene Roy; Andrea Siegel; Ann Tennes (Village staff liaison)

*BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:* Dan Kelch; Barbara Reeder; Norm Rosen (ex-officio)

*OTHERS PRESENT:* General Manager Michael Pauken; Director of Marketing David Vish

***OPERATIONS REPORT:***

Pauken reported that through the Village an application was submitted for a State of Illinois tourism grant for capital improvements to the Center. The maximum grant is \$1 million and there is only a \$10 million pot statewide, but the hope is that the Center will get something.

Pauken said the Box Office is busy preparing for the subscription renewals for Music Theater Works' 2022 season. Unlike Northlight, which runs fall to summer, MTW runs their season March to December.

Pauken reported that planning continues for the NSCPA Foundation benefit in association with the Rocket Man Show on November 13. He is also tending to quarterly financial work for the Foundation. BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois will be the premier sponsor and many board members have stepped up to the sponsorship level as well.

Pauken said that staffing events continue to be a challenge, but they are pushing ahead the best they can.

***COVID-19 UPDATE:***

Pauken reported that the Center began requiring proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for event entry beginning in September and plans to continue this policy through at least December. Face masks are required inside the theater, and food and beverage have been restricted to the lobby. This has resulted in a few refunds at each Feature Series performance, but most customers have been compliant. Pauken said they will revisit allowing concessions inside the theatre once Cook County has been removed from the "substantial transmission" level by the CDC.

***PROGRAMMING/MARKETING:***

Pauken reported that the first five Feature Series shows of the fall all attracted strong audiences and had positive net income. October shows, for which the sales period was more impacted by the COVID delta variant, have been slower selling, even previous sell-outs like Boz Scaggs. Pauken said the decision was made to cancel the performance of Jane Lynch and Kate Flannery on October 15 due to weak sales and are moving towards canceling or postponing Sam Bush scheduled for November 10.

Pauken said they have confirmed and put on sale a no-fee presentation of Wisconsin-based comedian Charlie Berens for October 16, who is selling extremely well.

Director of Marketing David Vish reported on ticket sales and marketing plans for upcoming Feature Series presentations. The Board supported PFM submitting offers to previously endorsed artists Piff & Puddles and Colbie Caillat.

***FINANCIALS:***

Financial Statements through August 31, 2021 reflect net income from operations of \$55,387, which is \$283,144 better than budget. \$155,000 of this amount is the Payroll Protection Plan loan obtained by PFM for fiscal 2021 that was not forgiven until fiscal 2022. Pauken explained that without this amount, the Center is still \$128,144 better than budget through August 31 as a result of stronger than expected event revenue and tight cost controls.

***OLD BUSINESS:***

Ann Tennes reported that Northlight lease has stalled a bit, but it will be on a November Village Board meeting.

***NEW BUSINESS:***

Terrence Guolee reported that Steve Franklin has moved from the PAC Board to the Economic Development Commission and called for recommendations for new board members.

***ADJOURNMENT:***

Rene Roy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andrea Siegel. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael Pauken