

# MINUTES OF THE ARENA THEATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 26, 2023

A Closed Session was convened at 5:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter

The Closed Session ended and the Open Session was begun at 6:00 p.m. by Pres. Beattie.

**Roll Call** in attendance; Vanderwoude, McFarland, Beattie, McMurtry, Andersen, Sussman, Crutcher (via video)  
absent; Curbelo, More  
staff and volunteers; Boyd, Moseley, Joakimides

**Privilege of the Floor/Correspondence/Suggestion Box-** Shauna reported that Uneda Eat folks have inquired about parking on the south side of the theater. There was a question about who had jurisdiction to grant that permission. Mitch stated that the owner of the restaurant net door leases that property and should therefore possess that right. Access to that location across theater property was agreed to.

**Approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2023 board meeting.** Mark moved to approve and Tim seconded. Unanimous.

**President's Report-** Michael merely stated that he was pleased to be at a live meeting.

**Treasurer's Report-** Financial states have been distributed and there was nothing further to add.

## **Standing committee Reports-**

*Membership committee:* Rod was gone and the committee did not meet

*Fund Development Committee:* Shauna reminded the board that we received \$2000 in Covid relief funds in '20-'21. To her pleasant surprise we just received a second round that amounted to \$15,000. Some discussion was held as to how to use that money as it is unrestricted. Michael thought that Cinema should be considered as it does run a deficit. Mitch suggested that it go into the general operating expenses, since that is what subsidizes the cinema anyway. It was decided that the Finance Committee is the appropriate place to begin that discussion.

*Programming Committee:* **cinema-** summer blockbusters are doing very well with *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer* coming soon. Two week runs have been suggested for these two films, but there is the question of whether our limited local audience would support that many shows. Sundance wondered how this is working out for other theaters. *Barbie* is first, so we will wait to see how that goes before deciding on *Oppenheimer*.

Paul brought up that the first two cult classic showing did well, with a third coming August 12. Shauna wondered if we should book three more. Cinema committee will look at that.

**Film Festival-** Shauna reported that the committee is plugging away and that they will be applying for a grant from the Mendocino County Tourism Commission. Success looks likely for the November 10-11 event. This coincides with the Visit Mendocino Harvest Festival weekend. Peggy Berryhill has a film that we would likely show for the festival in addition to a shorts presentation. **Live - Third Monday Music** is holding its own with a \$100-200 gain. Some would like more evenings, but we should wait and see how the show continues to do. We also have Music on Film presentations that draw music audiences. We lost \$500-550 on the fireworks show with only about 100 attendees. Costs were higher due to extra security and the bar didn't do that well. It was suggested that we double the

per show standard expense, but it might be better to vary that cost depending on the use. Mark wondered if we could increase the overhead charge to assist cinema. Higher overhead may be justified because of extra expenses. Live show on August 5 with Pato Bantu and Blues on the Coast has Jeremiah Johnson on the 19<sup>th</sup>. **Science on Screen-** Sundance told the board that the season is over and he will not be doing it again next year. After paying speakers and their travel we netted \$4500 as he donated his time. Telecast- Opera tickets are now on sale for the 9 opera season with no Covid restrictions. There are no other telecasts booked as NT Live has nothing of great interest.

**Publicity-** Tim Balambao and Phil have determined that we have issues with our backstage speakers. Dagmar suggests that perhaps we could bundle a few different items into a capital improvement grant for the Community foundation Grant cycle. A new printer for the office and a fridge were also suggested. **Film Club** no report, but will meet August 7.

**Personnel Committee-**A report on the closed session detailed that a volunteer/employee has been removed from duties for three months while they consider their proper role. A discussion was had by the committee referencing vacation pay for employees, but it doesn't seem possible at this time.

*Facility Committee-* Tim reported that routine maintenance continues and that the propane tank has been renewed. The kiosk is next. The nuisance tree has been trimmed by the City and Tim did a bit more. The funky limb on the south side is still an issue.

**Old Business-** nothing

**New Business-**

**Rental Policy and rates discussion-** Sundance wondered what other venues charge and what services they provide. It was suggested that we increase costs for non-members such that it would be cheaper to become a member. This is to be brought to the Finance Committee. There was also a discussion of internet voting for rentals. Mitch pointed out that the By-laws mention "all members" when authorizing internet voting. We will need to revisit this idea. Rental policy should consider the cinema schedule and perhaps have a hourly charge for use on scheduled film days.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. August 30 is the last Wednesday of August.