



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Via Zoom

November 19, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Present: Lise Richer, Conrad Gonthier, Christiane Taylor, Cathy Durham, Corey Disotell, Sue Kingston, Lacie Petrynka, Peter Labelle, Melissa Brown, Josee Julien, Kerry Hug, Brian McCartney, Kakwirelosta Hall, Joseph Ianni, Mari Cheffer, Harold Tohana, Lesely and Steve Ellam, Frank Cotter, Jacqueline Petro, Justin Duboc, Susan Kingston

Regrets: Conrad Gonthier, Frank Burelle.

1. Call to Order

Lise Richer called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. Before we started the AGM, Lise acknowledge the passing of long time Theatre devotee board Member of SVTC, Tony Gross's, a few days ago.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Lise Richer made a motion to approve the AGM agenda as presented. **Seconded by Christiane Taylor. Carried.**

3. Approval of the Minutes

Cathy Durham read the minutes of the minutes of the September 27, 2019, AGM. Cathy made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2020 meeting as presented. **Seconded by Corey Disotel. Carried.**

4. Chairman's Report

Lise Richer read her Chairman's report, thanking our remarkable volunteers. Our 2019-2020 year has been a challenging one. Our Fall production, *Chapter Two*, had to move the show location due to a threatening school strike, our *Mary Poppin's Jr.* production needed to find a director weeks before auditions, *Nonsense*, cancelled due to COVID-19. But we managed to get the highly successful *Mamma Mia* on stage before the Pandemic hit. In August, "*The Show Must Go Online*" production, proved itself to be a successful virtual Online Show.

We continue with Ticket Wicket as our ticket selling provider, with on line sales showing an increase. Alzheimer's Society can no longer provide in person, or telephone ticket sales. We are hoping to be able to offer this, in our new home. We continue to tack on the \$1.00 Aultsville refurbishing fee. SVTC contributed \$6,580.00 last year, with the total of \$15,702.00 thus far. The person awarded the SVTC Bursary decided not to attend his/her post- Secondary Education this fall due to Covid-19 restrictions of having only on line classes. The recipient will be named

and awarded the Bursary in the Spring of 2021. The Vanetia Warner Award recipient was Millie Cameron-Burelle.

There was no March Break Theatre Camp this past year, and the Annual Summer Theatre Camp didn't happen due to Covid.

Seaway Valley Theatre Company would like to thank Catherine and Joseph Ianni who helped financially, to make the dream of having our own home with a rent-to-own agreement.

Along came Covid-19, no longer allowing us to perform small plays in our new facility. With generous support from our Members and local business, we began getting our facility repaired, and renovated. We are hoping to offer our building for rent to small community gatherings once the restrictions ease. In the meantime, we are putting many efforts into fundraising events. We have had raffle basket, paint nights (physically distanced), and soap fundraiser. In February, *Sixth and Broadway An Evening of Music, Masks, and Love*, as a fundraiser.

We have continued to write and submit many grants since September. The Ontario Trillium Grant for Covid -19, the Intact Insurance Grant, the Scotiabank Community Grant, Cornwall Tourism Grant. We are still waiting on replies.

In May, the Board had to make the hard decision to cancel the full playbill and sit tight. So far, we able to sit 50 people in our audience, not counting our cast and volunteers. On October 8th, a call for proposals was sent out for play submissions from January to August 2021.

We will remain strong. We will do everything in our power to keep Seaway Valley Theatre Company's name alive.

5. Treasurer's Report

Melissa Brown read her Treasurer's Report, while the financial report was shown on the screen. After Melissa's presentation, there were some questions from the floor, mainly clarifying where the expense was of the building purchase. Also, the transfers were rent mortgage for the new building storage rental for the old building and hall rental was Aultsville were clarified. Total cash and Bank Accounts Total Assets, \$59,639.36, total liabilities and Equity SVTC has a total income of \$160,143.42, total expenses \$144,573.86, with an overall total of \$15,569.56

Melissa Brown made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. **Seconded by Christiane Taylor. Carried.**

The Financial projection presented was confusing to the zoom attendees. The board wanted to show the financial budget projection, the monies we have and the projected expenses. We will start this over from the beginning of our year. It was suggested from the floor to revisit this projection monthly.

6. Reports from Committees:

a.). Building Committee- Steve Ellam, Peter Labelle

Lesley Ellam read Steve's report from the Dream Builders Warehouse. Steve gave an overview of the move from the warehouse into our new Building on 6th street.

On our new building, Peter reported:

- 60 volunteers have put hundreds of hours,
- stage has been laid and constructed

- Mentioned that Grants have been submitted and we are waiting on the replies (grant monies to go toward, replacing the H-vac system, new microphones, plexiglass for front of the stage, video recording equipment)
- Dennis Durham, Marc Richer and Steve Ellam have been replacing some of the drywall
- Lesley and her crew have been painting, entrance area, event room, and theatre room,
- Work on the kitchen and Bar area is on going
- Great outpouring of support from the community –
 - in kind from Winmar-mold removal, and covered the cost of some of the supplies
 - Emard Brothers donated top-of-the-line 16 hundred square feet of flooring (\$6,000 retail value)
 - Rona gave \$1,000.00 credit,
 - Home hardware \$500.00 in paint,
 - Alexandria Molding - contributed for the theatre room
 - Bourgon Construction – erect an ladder on the exterior of building installation and labour (cut the bill in half with their contribution)
 - Cortec is providing the ladder

Volunteers have put in hundreds of hours to get the building to where it is today. Hopefully we can soon offer a tour. Bathroom reno is next on the to do reno list.

b.). Membership/Communications – Conrad Gonthier

Lise read Conrad’s submitted report. A mass mailing was sent out to our former and current members over the last 5 years, encouraging them to renew their membership and patronage. We had a 2% membership decrease from last year, with total membership at 98 people. We also had up to 13 active Patrons in Various levels during the 2019-2020 Season.

c.). Marketing – Christiane Taylor

Christiane Taylor read the Annual Marketing report 2020. There are 6 members, and 2 sub committee members of the Marketing Committee. Christiane highlighted the work the committee does on behalf of SVTC. Also making sure we have a presence on social media.

d.). Artistic Director- Andy Davidson

Andy Davidson is from Massena, and can’t cross the border until it is open during this pandemic. Lise read Andy’s AGM report. Proposal solicitations have been sent out to our shortened 2021 season. Plus new solicitations for a more traditional 2021-2022 season will be going out soon.

7. New Business:

a.). Plans for the New Season

We are carrying on. Smaller shows will be the best bet. Reminder of the deadline for Show Proposals. Justin Duboc ,from the zoom floor, recommended *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

b.). Elections

Lesley Ellam, our elections officer took over this portion of the meeting. Frank Burelle, Lacie Petrynka, Susan Kingston, have all decided not to let their name stand for re-election to the Board. Christiane Taylor, and Cathy Durham have both decided to stay on the board for another term. Nominations were open from the floor to fill the slate. Lise Richer nominated Josee Julien, and Corey Disotell, nominated Mari Cheffer. Both were asked if they were a current member and if they would allow their name to stand for election. They answered yes, and yes. According to our election rules, there is no need to have an election, as the Board is under the twelve person limit. During the swearing-in ceremony, the new Board did not have to stand, because of the nature of our Zoom Meeting. A big Thank You to our Board Members, Frank, Lacie and Sue for serving and for their continued support. Also, a big Thank You to Melissa Brown, for her time and expertise, who is stepping down from the Treasurer's position.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. The next Annual General Meeting will be in the fall of 2021.