

Mason Community Players, Inc.

Minutes: February 3, 2016



Present: Laureen Catlin, Jonathan Eckman,
Perry Gary, Jason Gonzalez, Lara Gonzalez,
Eric Grimm, Peyton Hahn, Darren Lee

Excused: Tessa Catlin, Matt Lisa, Julie Poux

Guest: Joel Lind

OPENING

Vice-President Lara Gonzalez in the stead of President Julie Poux called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Minutes: Lara moved that the minutes of the December meeting be approved as presented. Peyton seconded. Motion carried (6-0-0).

Treasurer's Report: Laureen presented the January 2016 report and explained the line items for the past month's income and expenses. She urged that all avenues for an influx of cash be pursued so that obligations can be met for February, March and April. Peyton shared that the Finance Committee is slated to meet on February 15th and that there will be discussion of the action items to address the current balance. Perry moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Darren seconded. Motion carried (8-0-0). Laureen also stated that she will be seeking the help of the Finance Committee to develop a budget for 2016 that will incorporate two banking accounts ...one for Theatre 42 and one for the administration and productions of MCP. As soon as that is developed she will e-mail that to the Board so that it may be discussed, adjusted and hopefully approved at the March Board Meeting. Laureen moved that MCP accept the services of a volunteer bookkeeper, at this time specifically Jodi Tucker, to operate under the auspices of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee Chair until such time as Jodi is unable to fulfill those duties. Lara seconded. Motion carried (8-0-0). Finally, Laureen reported that she and Phil are providing the funding for Quickbooks Online and that is being made available for MCP's use. Up to five members of MCP will have the ability to access the online information at any time. Currently, Laureen, Jodi and Peyton will have that access and Peyton will name the two other individuals able to access the information directly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: Peyton reiterated that the Finance Committee will be meeting on February 15th. He reported that the members will be reviewing the comprehensive goals that Peyton has set forth for the 2016 year. Those will be shared with the Board at the March meeting along with a proposed budget.

Communications Committee: Lara reported that the Committee has established a specific e-mail address, that of publicity@masonplayers.org for members to inform the Communication Committee about information to be published to the membership at large via e-mail and Facebook. At the meeting, the group reassigned the tasks for this year. Many members accepted tasks with which they are familiar, some members took on new tasks for this year. There will be two new members of the Comm.Comm. in 2016 - Jonathan Eckman and Kiya Fix who will be joining the group at the February meeting. The final two tasks of the last meeting were the review of the "Sweetheart" tasks, which were all in place and the communication of the auditions for "greater Tuna."

ACT/OCTA (A part of Liaison): Joel attended the January ACT meeting. He will be able to attend the February meeting but gives early warning that someone will need to attend for him in March. A major discussion of the last meeting was concern over the dwindling number of adjudicators for the ACT Judging Program. Leadership is asking that each group help to encourage new volunteers to step into the role of adjudicator. They are particularly interested in member groups reaching out to drama instructors at high school and college levels and asking for them to serve as adjudicators. They are also providing instruction for members who may feel that they need more knowledge in certain areas of the theatre before adjudicating as they provide more training for existing adjudicators in the form of a workshop on tech foundations February 27th at 1:00 PM at TDW. All group presidents and reps are invited to attend. Each presenter is very experienced in his/her field. Nominations for ACT Awards (Rouse, Pitocco, Grooms) are due May 1st. Joel is willing to write MCP's nominations. Rising Star Committee is beginning its journey to encourage and support the participation of community theatre members who are 20 to 30-years of age approximately. Peyton Hahn is joining Joel on that committee and they are seeking others. The Scholarship Competition is soon and Joel will investigate the deadline for entering. Action item for the Award Nominations: Joel will e-mail the information about the awards and the nomination letters he sent for MCP and for Dee Dunn to Lara Gonzalez and she will disseminate those to Board Members so that they might read them and determine the nominees at the March meeting. Joel will then have sufficient time to prepare and submit the letters. Finally, Joel inquired if MCP were able to lend "Shrek" props to GHCT, but we asked him to inform them that they were under contracted use from an organization in Pennsylvania.

Membership Committee: Perry reported that the Committee met with two new members ... Ken Macke and Dana Davis. The Committee divided into four sub-committees to help in the organization of the tasks for this year. They will be Banquet (led by Mary Stan Fizer), Member Organization (led by Ken Macke), Member Appreciation (led by Becca McLaughlin) and Social (led by Dana Davis).

Mary Stan reported that comments about the banquet were overwhelmingly positive and that many would be comfortable with this venue for future banquets. She stated that one item that needed improvement was that during the course of the evening, guests discovered that the sound was blaring in the room next to the one where guests were seated and barely audible in the main room. That would need to be addressed for future banquets in that venue. The main goal of the Committee this year will be to provide more efficient member organization with the help of Ken and in cooperation with Jason who has been developing software for the purpose. There will continue to be monthly birthday celebrations, movie nights will be held quarterly and one event to be investigated for this year would be an Open House, picnic, mixer, if you will, with other theatre troupes, beginning with our good neighbors, Lebanon Theatre Company. Finally, another goal will be finding ways to garner more volunteer support. Perry wishes to remain the liaison with LM & M in conjunction with the Finance Committee.

Production Committee: Laureen reported that the Production Committee has morphed into two separate committees in order to better address the original mandate of the group. Laureen, Larry Hirth, Becca McLaughlin, Matt Lisa, Tom Caruso and Eric Grimm will continue to serve together on the newly-named Facilities Committee, which will focus on the needs of the building and surrounding support as well as the storage at Great Value. Darren Lee, along with Eric Grimm and Matt Lisa who will serve on both committees, will be the core of the new Production/Performance Committee who will concentrate on supporting the shows and those who produce them for MCP. They will develop goals related to each production and work with Facilities to try and meet those goals before the curtain goes up. Darren, Eric and Matt will be asking others to join them. President Julie will be naming chairs for these two committees soon. Facilities continued the meeting by readdressing the list of priorities as relates to the new ownership of the building.

OLD BUSINESS

Sweetheart Review Update: Lara reported that "Sweetheart" does not have a submitted budget, but has been moving under a working one with a goal of between \$400 and \$700 in expenses. Matt Lisa will be returning this weekend to push for the completion of the set. The show is beginning to fall into place as regards performance. Peyton expressed a concern about the need for more audience and he and Lara agreed upon a plan for urging cast members to reach out in a personal manner to 10 people.

2017 Season Summer Musical: There was a lengthy discussion in regards to the shows submitted by those who had proposed previously after they had been asked to re-submit some more shows that might help in the selection of a summer musical.

Points included:

- Should there be a 5 or 6 show season
- Value of name recognition
- Value of the inclusion of children in cast, in audience
- How does director skills fit with shows desired, if at all
- Show's draw for performers and their circle of influence
- Recent production of the show in nearby venues
- Production value and expense of a show
- Could a smaller musical be produced in spring/fall in addition to large one in summer
- Value of hooks for publicizing a show
- Should MCP seek out a director who has not proposed for this year

After a long time, it was determined that each Board Member should return in March able to state what three priorities are most critical to him/her in the choice of a summer musical for 2017 so that there can be some consensus around the parameters the Board should use to determine the remainder of the Season.

NEW BUSINESS

Greater Tuna Update: From the great auditions there is now a great cast of three ... Brandon Dunphy, Jay Fultz and Darren Lee. They have begun to work on characterization and familiarizing themselves with the show. A partial staff is in place. Producer Lara Gonzalez will bring a proposed show budget to the March meeting.

Annual Budget: See above re: proposed budget being presented at March meeting after work during Finance Committee.

Other at Discretion of Members: There will be a Season Ticket sales opportunity at "Sweetheart Review." It had been stated that the Season Ticket price would be \$42 and that those who attend "Sweetheart" and bought a Season ticket would receive \$5 off the Season Ticket. Attendees will be able to purchase the ticket at the show for \$37 or be given a code to use online to purchase one.

Being no other business put forth by the members, Laureen moved that the meeting be adjourned, Perry seconded with help from Peyton. Motion carried (7-0-0).

Respectfully submitted in the absence of the Secretary,

Laureen Catlin

Treasurer