

Mason Community Players, Inc.

Minutes: September 28, 2016 October Meeting

Present: Laureen Catlin, Perry Gary,
Jason Gonzalez, Eric Grimm,
Peyton Hahn, Darren Lee, Julie Poux



Excused: Tessa Catlin, Jonathan Eckman, Lara Gonzalez, Matt Lisa

OPENING

President Julie Poux called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Minutes: Laureen called for a correction to the amount of funds raised at the Thomas Event that was recorded in the minutes as \$6,700. The correct amount is \$6,407.50. The \$6,700 amount included other expected funds. She then moved that the minutes of the September meeting be approved with the correction. Eric seconded. Motion carried (5-0-1).

Treasurer's Report: Laureen presented the September 2016 report of income and expenses and stated that the current balance in the checking account is \$1,853.19. She explained that the funds from the Thomas Event had not yet arrived and that the positive net revenue would not have been possible without another loan to be able to pay the rent for September. That loan will need to be repaid as soon as the proceeds from LM & M arrive. Rent is again due on the first of the month and \$929.35 is still owed to members for materials they purchased for the set decor and house for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. To add to the shortfall, there is a great need to have the propane tank filled before heat is needed in the building. Members discussed a need to put into place through the Performance Committee, a policy that will back Producers in their position of non-payment to staff members of a production who spend more than their allotted budget item without reporting to the Producer, and he/she to the Board, that there will be an overage. Jason will take that up with the Performance Committee at their next meeting. Peyton moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Jason seconded. Motion carried (7-0-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee: In Lara's absence, Julie highlighted a few points from the notes which were disseminated to members via e-mail ... the publicity for *Murder's Bad* has been set in motion and will be reviewed at the next meeting, the team is working to get a Season Brochure in place for the fall show beginning with color logos for 2017, the business cards for *Inspecting Carol* will be ready for *Murder's Bad*. There has been an emphasis on publicizing shows in ways that minimize cost and free has become the team's favorite word. The team is investigating the value of Facebook boosts to see about reaching more people in a targeted area,

since Facebook seems to be an effective way in general to get the word out. The fee for boosts is low. Robert will boost the post at the end of this week and again next week.

Finance Committee: Peyton reported that the Silent Auction at the Heritage Festival made over \$700. The donors enjoyed making the baskets for the event. There were about 30 items to be auctioned off and this was done with only a one month turn around. Silent Auction might be a good option for raising funds at similar events for the group and the Committee may consider two next year ... one in Spring and then the Heritage Festival one in the Fall. The team is investigating the value of raising funds through the Kings Island Volunteer Program, It has some positive characteristics ... it requires no training; MCP could make as much as \$10 per hour per volunteer; participating in only 5 dates in the Spring and 5 dates in the Fall could mean garnering proceeds of \$8,000; no minimum number of volunteers is required for any shift, KI is closer than the stadium for Reds Volunteer Program and the parking is free. Jon Scheiding is coordinating this test program. Peyton, Brandon, Laureen and Jonathan have attended one session and found the work to be easier than at the Reds, though they are still 8 hour shifts. MCP members do not have any responsibility for management situations which is a plus. Jon Scheiding is coordinating this test of the KI Program and will e-mail Board Members the remaining dates so that if anyone wishes to participate they can. Finance Committee will be meeting on October 3rd to plan events for 2017.

Liaison Committee: Joel is still the ACT/OCTA rep, but Julie has not heard from him recently. She will follow up. Laureen reported that we still owe dues to ACT.

Membership Committee: Perry reported that the Committee was not able to meet because of his illness. Diane Caruso is in the process of creating a banquet checklist for all to use in preparing for the event in the future. Perry submitted a participation contract for cast members of shows. Members discussed the points of the document and Perry was asked to make some rewrites and resubmit that document. Those present also discussed how to make membership aware of the financial needs of the group and solicit their support. Peyton and Nick are working on a Finance Video to explain the need and would like to produce that so that it can be shown at the first cast meeting of each show and Peyton is preparing a presentation for the Banquet related to garnering financial support from the membership.

Production/Facilities Committee: Laureen reported that the Facilities Committee met last night. The priorities for attention have been those that do not require additional funding, since funds are low at this time and the members have completed all but two of those tasks, which will be taken care of by the end of October. Discussion of the meeting centered around processes to insure that when members use items in the space that those items be returned to their proper place. Also, there was discussion about cleaning Theatre 42 more thoroughly and more often. Eric is developing a list of tasks that need to be accomplished more often. As the committee continues to meet, they will also discuss how to ask the staffs/casts of shows to proceed through the checklist at strike. Once again the group will try to ask members to commit to a cleaning team just once a year by choosing one month in which to be a part of that team.

Production/Performance: Did not meet since last Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Murders Update: Laureen reported that all is going well with the show. She reviewed the current state of the budget. There have been few advanced ticket sales, but the staff has kept expenses well below budget for the most part. The set decor is nearly completed and will most likely meet its goal of this coming weekend for completion. Now we just need to get butts in the seat. Sell tickets, sell tickets, sell tickets!

Cemetery Walk Update: Laureen reported that she still needs to finalize an actor because one of the high school students dropped and they asked that we fill the need. The other cast members have been practicing and will be ready to go. Laureen has been providing costumes for both the MCP cast members and the high school members, though the agreement was that she would help with the latter. Still in all, the event does garner good PR for MCP and there will be a donation from the Historical Society, though the amount has never been discussed and they have done so out of goodwill in the past.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Update: Darren reported that the auditions occurred without incident and that there is a cast in place. There are a few roles for men that do need to be filled and Susan is working on getting those filled. Darren still needs to get the staff together. He has the contract for the rights, but the payment will have to be made on those and Laureen took the paperwork so that she can make that happen in time for us to be legal.

Show Proposals: The members talked potential slate for Season 2018 at length. The shows in consideration included two revues: *Star Spangled USO Salute* and a Christmas Revue, 5 musicals: *The Fantastiks*, *Godspell*, *Man of La Mancha*, *School of Rock* and *Children of Eden*, and 5 plays: *The Foreigner*, Mark Twain's *The Diaries of Adam and Eve*, *Enchanted April*, *I and You* and *Red, White and Tuna*. Jason Gonzalez also stated that he would be willing to direct *The Last Five Years*, which is a small, two-person musical if that would help in the decision-making process. The members did come to some conclusions about certain shows and there were some questions to be posed to certain directors and the issue was tabled until the next meeting, so that discussion could continue.

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

Respectfully submitted in the absence of the Secretary,

Laureen Catlin

Treasurer