

Vagabond Players

General Meeting

Bernie Legge Theatre

7:00 PM – Monday February 19, 2018

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10 pm

Executive present - Seven: Denise Brookson, Liam Coughlan, Jeremy Heynen, Rob Larsen, Valerie Lawlor, Isabel Mendenhall, Craig Premack

Regrets - Two: Joanna Brailsford, Alexandra Wilson

1) MINUTES – Reading was Waived, and the Minutes of the November 13, 2017 Executive Meeting was approved, and the January 15, 2018 Executive Meeting was approved, and the January 15, 2018 General Meeting was approved with one housekeeping change.

There was a discussion as to the existence of Minutes for the November 22, 2017 General Meeting which took place while the Recording Secretary was out of town. As no minutes could be located, Liam Coughlan suggested that the Meeting Agenda be used as a skeletal set of Minutes for the November 22, 2017 General Meeting.

2) CORRESPONDENCE – Valerie Lawlor indicated that a) there was an inquiry to rent the Bernie Legge Theatre for a talent show/concert on May 12, 2018, and b) three plays were submitted for consideration of the Playreading Committee, and c) there were some requests for ticket donations, and d) some concerns were expressed regarding parking at the Bernie Legge Theatre e) there were some written kudos for “Drinking Habits”, and f) there was a request from Saint Aidans Presbyterian Church to purchase all of the tickets for a performance of “You Can’t Take it With You” and to accommodate them, there will be an additional performance scheduled on June 6, 2018, and that needs to be communicated to anybody auditioning on March 11/12, 2018, and also g) a request by the Lions Club to purchase approximately 75 tickets for a Sunday matinee performance of “4000 Miles.”

3) TREASURER’S REPORT – As the Treasurer was absent, Jeremy Heynen advised that the Treasurer has advised that she has been “unable to get a Vagabond Players credit card, as somebody’s personal name has to be attached to it”. Also, Jeremy Heynen distributed some financial reports that were submitted by the Treasurer, however, some members pointed out what appeared to be obvious errors in the reports. Jeremy Heynen indicated that the Board of Directors are aware of the frustrating issues with the financial reports as well as multiple absences from meetings, and are attempting to resolve the issue with the Treasurer. Some members requested a speedy resolution to the ongoing issue.

4) HOUSE MANAGER’S REPORT – Craig Premack demonstrated a wireless doorbell system that he secured to deal with the issue of patrons who use the wheelchair ramp outside the northern lobby door knocking to get in, but not being heard when the lobby is full. He also advised that he had all of the carpets cleaned except for the office, and that he is considering a replacement for the carpet pieces in the office. Jeremy Heynen passed on that Monty Peters of the City of New Westminster advised that the

rotted bottom exterior wood door of the theatre is being replaced by a steel door on February 20, 2018. There was an offer of LED Christmas lights.

5) PRODUCTION UPDATE – Jeremy Heynen reported that “Drinking Habits” has been very successful. Blocking was completed on “4000 Miles” as of February 18, 2018 and a Stage Manager is still being sought, and ideally is a female, so that she can voice the female off-stage dialogue. Auditions for “You Can’t Take It With You” will be on March 11/12, 2018, with the first read through on April 8, 2018. Liam Coughlan advised that the proposed Vagabond Players script lending library has still not been established, but that he has 17 scripts for “You Can’t Take It With You” from the Vancouver Public Library available for borrowing.

6) BY-LAW COMMITTEE - Isabel Mendenhall distributed the most current revision of the Constitution and By-Laws with significant proposed changes marked in red. There was much discussion, and there were a number of suggestions made from the floor for changes for the consideration of the Committee. There was a significant discussion as to the merit of increasing transparency by specifying all of the positions on the Board of Directors rather than having some positions as Directors at Large as is the current practice, which results in successful candidates learning what they are responsible for after they are elected. In addition, there was significant discuss as to whether or not the By-Laws is the optimal place to list the positions, and what the most appropriate titles would be. It was suggested that to best understand the organizational dynamics, and determine the ideal structure, that it would be helpful to create an organizational chart.

7) PUBLICITY COMMITTEE – Valerie Lawlor reported that a) “Drinking Habits” was so popular that more programs had to be printed, and Craig Premack continues to do the head shots and Suzanne Biehl the Cast/Crew board, and b) in regards to “4000 Miles”, Gayle Brawn designed the poster which is now printed, and she will also do the program, and Isabel Mendenhall has the newspaper ad ready, and Elizabeth Elwood has submitted to Playboard, and has completed the general Press Release, and the poster team and the social media posts are well in hand, and c) in regards to “You Can’t Take It With You”, Gayle Brawn has committed to doing the program, and is finalizing the poster. Valerie Lawlor also shared that Minuteman Press, the company that we have used to print our posters and programs has changed hands and with that, costs have also changed and she will review to ensure that we are still getting the best value.

8) PLAY READING COMMITTEE – In the absence of Alexandra Wilson, the Playreading Chair, Jeremy Heynen relayed that the Committee has “five more plays to read, but we are on track for bringing forward suggestions for two seasons with backups in April.” There was an enquiry as to whether the second season that was penciled together by the previous Committee would be consider in the upcoming two seasons proposal, and it was confirmed that that would be the case. The intention for April, 2018 is for the Playreading Committee to propose four “traditional” plays for 2018/2019 to be supplemented with a Pantomime as well as four “traditional’ plays for 2019/2020 to be supplemented with a Musical, which is to be selected by November 2018. There was a concern expressed about having a one year break from Musicals based on assumptions regarding the work load of a musical. Also, several people spoke in support of Musicals, stating that according to patron surveys, and informal comments, there is strong demand for Musicals and also that Musicals expand not only our cast/crew base, but also out patron base.

9) EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Gillies Malnarich shared that the Terms of Reference have been completed as well as the Application Process and next up is the Education Process.

10) SKATE PARK – Jeremy Heynen shared that the contractor for the City of New Westminster completed an Acoustic test on the Bernie Legge Theatre the morning of February 19, 2018. It was confirmed that we will get a copy of the Acoustic Test results prior to the next Council Meeting. Concern was expressed as to the absence of vocal and music sounds in their test recording. It was proposed that we consider paying for our own Acoustic testing. There was consensus for Jeremy Heynen to get a quote for the testing. It was shared with the Membership that the City of New Westminster has requested a final official position from Vagabond Players as to the proposed siting of the new Skate Park on the former site of the Annex. The plan in this regard is that Jeremy Heynen will draft a formal response for the consideration of the Board of Directors and we would review and submit prior to the upcoming March 12, 2018 Council Meeting. Also, it was passed on that the City of New Westminster has expressed concern that the City has lost the trust of Vagabond Players. A comment from the Mayor was passed on which admitted that their process might have been improved by focusing more and earlier on the impacts of the Skate Park on existing activities, and from the Mayor's perspective "sound" was the biggest issue regarding the juxtaposition between the Bernie Legge Theatre and the Skate Park. There was extensive discussion regarding the best way to ensure that the Skate Park is not sited so close to the Bernie Legge Theatre.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by Liam Coughlan