
Friends of Platteville Municipal Auditorium Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Dorothy Genthe, Marilyn Gottschalk, Kerry McCabe,
Celeste Moore, Jeremy Patnaude, JoAnne Schlicher,
Cheryl Schmieder, Patrice Steiner, Mike Willis

Date: 05/04/11**Time:** 7:00 (Wednesday)**Place:** GAR Room**Last Meeting Date:** 04/06/11**Next Meeting Date:** 06/01/11

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 6th Meeting (Corrected misspellings)

Motion: Patrice Steiner

Second: Kerry McCabe

Passed

Updates/Status

Doug Mackie wasn't able to make it to the meeting this evening to report on the construction of the **donation box**. Dorothy Genthe will contribute a jar for donations if we need something before the donation box is finished.

Patrice Steiner submitted a \$2500 request regarding the **Southwest Community Fund Grant** well before the April 15th deadline. She was not sure when they met to make their decision.

Cindy Robles was not present to report on whether or not she found the **original blueprints** for the auditorium. We'll check with her before the next meeting.

Jeremy Patnaude of the Driftless Film Festival and general manager of the State Theatres chain was here to discuss the **installation of "gently used" theatre seats** in the Municipal Auditorium. They are not new, but they are in good condition and built for today's larger bodies, unlike the auditorium's 1930s era seating. The Driftless Film Festival will fund the installation. They are interested in having the Municipal Auditorium as one of their festival venues in the future. Various theatres in the State Theatres chain will donate \$2500 worth of seating. Jeremy will have the auditorium measured and give us a couple options. Our contribution could come in the form of helping with fundraisers at the Avalon, brat sales, spaghetti suppers, and the like. Jeremy also suggested ways to raise more money with the seats. We could sell the vintage seats to individuals. We could also "sell seats" by setting a price on seats, then "sell" them. Those contributing would get a plaque on a chair with their name on it.

Patrice Steiner talked to **local theatre leaders** Phil Mrozinski of Mineral Point Opera House and Rich Hall of the Dubuque Opera House about coming to one of our meetings to discuss restoring the theatre. Phil has a meeting he must attend the first Wednesday of every month, but it meets at 6:00 while the Friends meet at 7:00. If we schedule him in the later half of the agenda, he might be able to attend part of our meeting anyway. Rich Hall offered to answer questions we had on setting priorities. Patrice will collect the questions and he will answer them. Patrice asked us to submit questions soon.

Pending Items

Celeste Moore has started writing up a **history of the auditorium**, but hasn't had a chance to check the Wisconsin Room at UW-P. Marilyn Gottschalk said her earlier research met with a dearth of information during the years Bob Graham directed. First hand information is slim since that generation is getting older. Celeste offered to contact Susan Louthain to see if she had any information on her father's productions. Old playbills would be invaluable. We could also use the Auditorium website to ask for information, old photos and memories of past performances from the public. Other possible resources in-

clude local newspapers in the Wisconsin Room at the UW-Platteville library (Dubuque papers, etc). Old high school and college annuals might be a resource as well, since the Municipal Auditorium was the stage of choice for those schools. Jaycees offered childrens plays during the 60s. We can see if they have any records of them. Celeste offered to do more research, mostly web based, while Marilyn offered to hit the libraries. Collaboration should make a large job easier.

Marilyn Gottschalk and Kerry McCabe volunteered to work with **Dennis Cooley** under the umbrella of Public Relations. He could help with fundraising and grant writing. At one point he told Marilyn Gottschalk he might know citizens willing to donate to a worthy cause.

Discussion/Approval of By-Laws

Public Relations officer is to be added to the elected officers. Celeste Moore will edit the current version of the By-Laws to reflect the changes suggested and post it to the Friends website for review.

Sub-Committees

There was discussion as to which committees should be permanent standing committees and which should be temporary sub-committees. **Events/Fund-raising Committee** and a **Grants Committee** were deemed to be permanent committees and should be specified in the By-Laws. There was discussion as to whether or not a Publicity Committee should be formed. The group decided to create a new officer to coordinate publicity. This new position needs to be added to the By-Laws before the document is voted upon.

Celeste Moore suggested having Mike Willis, Dick Davies and Mike Schmieder form the **Prioritization of Improvements/Upgrades Sub-Committee**. She felt they have the knowledge and experience to go through the most recent proposal of recommendations written by Gaile Schwiekwraith to evaluate which improvements should have priority.

Upcoming Events

Mike Willis says he'd be willing to present his 911 play '**The Eleventh**' on the tenth anniversary of the event as a theatre fundraiser. That date (Sunday, September 11, 2011) coincides with Dairy Days this year. He suggests putting it on from September 9 to 11 (Friday through Sunday). Kerry McCabe and JoAnne Schlicher suggested it would be a great idea to offer it to schools for a low admission price, but that might be contingent on potential cast members getting time off work. Mike suggested going with a free-will donation rather than charging admission for the general public performances.

Mike is also directing a brand **new high school play** for competition shortly after September 11. If the Platteville Community Theatre will sponsor the production, they could perform on the Municipal Building stage for donations and give the proceeds to the auditorium.

Kerry McCabe says she knows of a band willing to do a **band fundraiser** for the auditorium. Interest was expressed in the idea and people were reminded that other musicians are eager to raise money for the theatre.

Cheryl Schmeider had **Big Idea prize** info to share, if someone wanted to enter it on behalf of the auditorium. There is a June 15th deadline.

Adjourn (at 8:40 pm)

Motion: JoAnne Schlicher

Second: Kerry McCabe

Passed.