
Friends of Platteville Municipal Auditorium Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Dick Davies, Dorothy Genthe, Summer Hamille, Bethany Jarding, Ken Killian, Darby Shea Kruser, JoAnne Schlicher, Patrice Steiner, Keith Thompson, Kerry McCabe, Celeste Moore, Eileen Nickels, Jeremy Patnaude, Mike Willis

Date: 06/13/11

Time: 7:01 (Monday)

Place: Municipal Auditorium

Last Meeting Date: 06/01/11

Next Meeting Date: 07/06/11

Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 1st Meeting

Motion: JoAnne Schlicher

Second: Kerry McCabe

Passed

Public Relations Officer volunteer or election

The group discussed the names of PR Officer possibilities in the meeting on June 1st. President Cheryl Schmieder has not been home to ask these people if one or more of them would be interested in becoming the Public Relations Officer. (Again, we recognize in advance their commitments may not allow it.) Possible candidates included Summer Hamille, Gaile Schwickwrath, JoAnne Schlicher, and Cindy Voigts. Cindy Voigts sent word via Celeste Moore that she'd be glad to help, but couldn't commit to being the head officer. Gaile wasn't at this meeting. The other two, Summer Hamille and JoAnne Schlicher were caught by surprise and were not willing to make a commitment to the head officer job at this time. (They both later volunteered for related jobs needed for our current project. JoAnne will write press releases and Summer will contact other organizations interested in the renovations regarding the seat sale and removal.)

Status of auditorium seating/sale of old seats

Dorothy Genthe explained that we have an unforeseen time crunch if we want to take advantage of State Theaters LLC's generous offer of gently used auditorium seats. The installer is only available between July 15 2011 and August 1, 2011. If we don't move immediately to make the auditorium ready, we'd have to wait until Fall 2012 to install the theatre seating. The chairs we like may be long gone by then.

First there was discussion on whether or not we wanted to take advantage of this offer, largely centered around the possible cost to the Friends and the speed of the project. Jeremy Patnaude explained it was free to the Friends, except for costs incurred in clearing the old seats out. Purchase, transportation and installation would be financed by State Theaters LLC.

A motion was made by JoAnne Schlicher to take advantage of the State Theaters LLC offer of replacing the old auditorium seating. Summer Hamille seconded. The motion passed.

Common Council members Ken Killian, Eileen Nickels, and Patrice Steiner were in agreement with the consensus.

It was decided to sell sets of 4 seats for \$20. Dorothy has arranged to use the Art Hall for temporary storage. Members would have to find a way to transport the seats there.

There was discussion on the best time to do this sale. It was felt the Fourth of July weekend was not a good time because everyone would have family commitments. At first, the idea was to have a single day to have buyers come in. Keith Thompson suggested having buyers select their seats before removing them. Jeremy Patnaude pointed out that when they trashed old seats at Boscobel, it took them three days... and they had the right tools and knew how to use them. He stressed that we need to keep

the chairs in good condition to sell and volunteers might not be able to move as quickly, so we need to give ourselves time. Decision was made to hold the removal and sale of the old current auditorium seats on four days, starting Sunday, June 26 from 1 to 4. Additional dates were Monday through Wednesday evening from 5 to 8.

As stated previously, JoAnne Schlicher will write a press release for the Journal with photographs. Hopefully we can get Kathy Kopp and the Chamber to promote this. Patrice Steiner will see about getting air time on the radio. Summer Hamille will contact groups who have used the auditorium in the past and interested members of the public. Bethany Jarding suggested contacting various service groups for help. Celeste Moore will put blurbs on the website.

It was noted that this project may impact anyone trying to use the auditorium for the next month. They won't have seating. If events are in the books, the organizers will need to either postpone until after the installation or quickly find another location. Celeste Moore volunteered to inform the city of this decision and have them contact those on the schedule.

Officers to sign By-Laws

Celeste Moore brought a copy of the By-Laws for Friends officers to sign. President Cheryl Schmieder and Treasurer Doug Mackie were not present. As yet, we have not PR Officer either. We'll have to have officers sign it on different dates.

Donation box

City Manager Larry Bierke found an unlocked donation box set out and confiscated it, saying anyone could run off with the funds. There was a suggestion to have envelopes and forms printed up with the relevant post office box number so no money was laying around.

Community Fund Luncheon regarding setting up endowments

Patrice Steiner and Celeste Moore were invited to the luncheon on June 23 at Take 2 at 11:30. They plan to attend. The discussion will be setting up endowments through the community fund.

We briefly discussed the most troubling reason given for the denial of a Community Fund grant. We were told that since the Auditorium is owned by the City, the City should submit future applications. It looked like it might be a waste of time to apply in the future if this was the case. City Council member Ken Killian said the City Manager could sign our grant request on the city's behalf.

Questions for Rich Hall, former director at the Grand Opera House

Rich Hall offered to answer questions we had on setting priorities if Patrice Steiner collected the questions. No questions at this time.

Reminder: Phil Mrozinski is attending our July 6th meeting

Phil Mrozinski, of Mineral Point Opera House, will attend our July meeting at 8:00. 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. Scheduling him in the later half of the agenda means he's able to attend part of our meeting. It was suggested that members think of questions for him.

Roundtable

Not much extra discussion this time. We are concentrating on the seat removal and sale.

Adjourn (at 8:00 pm)

Motion: Dorothy Genthe

Second: Celeste Moore

Passed.