
Friends of Platteville Municipal Auditorium Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Dick Davies, Kerry McCabe, Celeste Moore, JoAnne Schlicher, Cheryl Schmieder, Patrice Steiner

Date: 1/14/2015**Time:** 6:30 (Wednesday)**Place:** Council Chambers**Last Meeting Date:** 12/10/2014**Next Meeting Date:** 2/4/2015

Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2014**Financial report:**

Treasurer Jayne Dunnum was not in attendance, but President Cheryl Schmieder reported we now have the \$15,000, including money from the Arts Board for \$6000 in our checking account.

501(c)(3) update:

No update.

Celeste Moore noted that she and Cindy Voigts hadn't advanced on this project and asked if the group wanted to keep the two involved. They did. She also wondered if anyone was willing to help them. Kerry McCabe offered to help get things rolling again.

Lighting upgrades:

The original lighting budget didn't have quite enough money to hook up a third bank of lights. The bank is there, we have the wiring, but we needed an additional \$1500 to provide hardware and hook it up. According to Lifeline through Dick Davies, if we wait until later, installation costs will double that amount.

JoAnne Schlicher moved, with Patrice Steiner seconding, that we approve the additional \$1500 to hook up the third bank of lights. The motion passed.

Installation is planned to be complete by the end of the month.

What's Next?**Window expansion for the Sound/Light Booth:**

We need the estimate to determine how much to request for a possible online Jumpstart drive.

'Tuna Does Vegas':

Director Kerry McCabe has decided to do 'Tuna Does Vegas'. She would like to present it in April of 2015, if possible. After discussion, Kerry agreed to put it on two weekends in a row. She'd like to hold auditions over a two-night period soon.

Seat numbering:

Dick Davies discussed seat numbering with Jeremy Patnaude of State Theatres LLC. He suggested using commercial vinyl numbers from an office supply store. They are cheap and easy to attach, plus they are easy to replace if they should happen to get scraped off. We need to get the size of the indentation on the seat for the size of the numbers to use.

Aisle lighting:

Celeste Moore turned in her receipt for the aisle puck lighting. Dick Davies is going to request gaffer tape from Lifeline for both attaching lights and cutting half shields for the aisle lights. The later won't need much tape.

Round table:

We need to find someone to locate grants for theatres, but we must have our 501(c)(3) documentation when we do.

Should we do a jump-starter campaign to raise funds to pay our 501(c)(3) expenses? We need to think about rewards for Kickstarter contributions. It can't cost much since we want money going to the auditorium rather than to contributors. Should we use a plaque on wall with different levels for sponsors as a reward? Giving tree with leaves representing sponsors? Art pieces with their names? We are asking for ideas to acknowledge our backers and encourage new donations.

UW-Whitewater is offering to send performance art students to us for internships. They mentioned doing feasibility studies. Could we look at them to find ways to hire a permanent grant writer? We'd need 501(c)(3) status before we'd be eligible for grants. We also need to discover how much oversight and feedback Whitewater would require.

Other future upgrades to the auditorium were discussed. In lieu of removing the old food pantry cupboards at the back of the auditorium (Rolling Hills Church uses them), Celeste Moore recommended painting the cupboards to match the walls. (The wood paneling doors don't fit in with the historic woodwork we are trying to preserve.) While we are at it, we could paint the ticket booth to match the auditorium. JoAnne Schlicher suggested painting the main aisles in the auditorium to match the curtains. We could use textured Rustoleum epoxy paint to get a lot of wear out of it. (We need to make sure it doesn't get too dark for patrons to see their feet in low lighting.)

Celeste Moore and Patrice Steiner are interested in using the same style sign used for the women's restroom right outside the auditorium to designate the ticket booth. It juts out from the wall so it can be read from both directions and the lettering would match the building. Patrice will look into it.

Dick Davies reported the fire inspector went through the backstage area and found areas we need to address. We must decide what to do with stuff that would be displaced.

We decided to move our next Friends of Platteville Municipal Auditorium meeting to the first Wednesday in February rather than the second due to scheduling issues. We'll set audition dates for 'Tuna Does Vegas' at that meeting.

Cheryl Schmieder would like to direct 'A Christmas Story' for December 2015. Celeste Moore offered to act as assistant in the early part of rehearsal while Cheryl is busy with Halloween. The play requires an onstage narrator. Cheryl hasn't made up her mind whether to use children for the roles or adults playing the children roles. There are advantages to both.

Adjourn at 7:40