

Barnesville State Theater  
Shekinah Church, 145 West Main Street, Barnesville, OH 43713  
May 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Officers and Directors present: Roger Johnson, Jacquette Stephen, Jake Hershberger, Jimmy Grear, Luke Johnson, David Ralston, Brandi Little, and Rose Grear.

Attendees: Bill Knox, Paula Grear, Sally Johnson, Judy Hutchinson, Sherry McClellan, Beverly Hannahs, Julian Licht, Alice Hunkler, Steve Hill, Rodona Dunfee, Janie Burkhart, Polly Sawvel, Tom Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Roger Johnson.

**Agenda Item:** MSA representative Chris Patek presented via conference call details of Phase I. They will invoice the group for phase 1.

Jake H. asked if the &Estimates services were included. The recent &Estimates presentation was an upsell. MSA is working with &Estimates on phase 1.

Bill K. inquired about the procured planner. Nothing is concrete at this time, but Chris will reach out to Kathryn Holcomb of EDG. This is favorable.

Dave R. wanted to confirm that the initial planning would include plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and structural modifications. Chris confirmed.

Returned to the business meeting.

**Agenda Item:** Welcome and Introductions of Guests and New Attendees

President Roger welcomed attendees and introduced Julian Licht, a local resident with varied construction and business skills.

**Agenda Item:** Previous Minutes approval

President Roger made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 4, 2023, meeting, Jake H. seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item:** Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report was provided by Quettie. The beginning balance is \$52, 263.72. Deposits were \$248.00 from the Tourism Council and \$152.00 donation from Bill Knox with an ending balance of \$52, 663.72. Dave R. made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Jake seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item:** Facebook/Media/Website Update

Jake provided a report for social media; Facebook has 1134 followers, Instagram 17, Twitter 6, website visits 85, and unique visitors 65.

**Agenda Item:** Grants/Fundraising

The grants/fundraising committee met on April 28. Bill K. provided a comprehensive report on the status of fundraising efforts. He has commitments from three donors for substantial gifts. (2-\$100 K, 1-\$25K), there will be a concerted effort for additional contributions over the next 120 days. Susie Nelson of the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley will be at the theater on May 26.

A meeting with Kara Brook of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is pending, as well as a visit with the Logan Theater group. Bill will join Mick Schumacher on Friday, May 5, at 11 a.m. at the Monroe Theater. All are welcome to join. Please let Bill know if you are interested.

The League of Historic American Theaters National Conference (Kansas City, MO) is slated for Sunday 7/16-Wednesday 7/19. Bill is attending.

Ohio Arts Council – Jacquette applied for funding for theater marketing/awareness and a match for conference expenses. Another grant is available on 6/30.

Community Project Funding through Congressman Johnson's office – Jacquette worked extensively on this application, including supplying 22 letters of support from the community. 15 of the 100 project applications were approved. We weren't awarded the grant but remain engaged for additional opportunities.

Appalachian Community Grant Program, Ohio Department of Development. Procured planners from the Environmental Design Group, Jim Lenner, and MSA – position us well for the grant process.

List of potential Donors – the list is compiled.

Video Documentation of theater memories – Jake and Bill will head this up.

Bill provided an article regarding grant writing/applications and some anecdotal information about similar long-term projects, which was encouraging to the group. Bill also indicated MSA has greatly reduced their planning fee from about \$80k down to \$35K, calling in many favors.

Luke J. has spoken with a colleague with summer available to research and write grants. Jacquette will reach out to Sandy Creek Horizons, Sam Tutten (son of Barnesville grad), and Rose will continue with efforts with the United Way grant writer.

Jacquette indicated the chamber\* (or maybe Pumpkin Fest) was gifted full-size fall burlap banners. The group will purchase 50 @ \$5.00 with a plan to sell for \$15.00-\$20.00.

**Agenda Item:** Directors Input/Suggestions from 4-4-23 meeting.

Roger stated that questions about by-laws had been raised. They are posted on the website, and Jacquette offered to print a copy for anyone who needed a paper copy.

Clarification on voting members was provided. Motions and voting are limited to officers and directors. Interested volunteers are encouraged to share opinions with voting members for their respective representation.

It was shared that parliamentary procedures should be in practice, and Roberts Rules of Order might be a simpler, straightforward way to accomplish this. When motions are made, the motion should be repeated to clarify what is being voted upon.

A discussion was held about the need for text messages to alert directors and officers about an email. The consensus is that time critical/response required emails would be accompanied by a text. No need for texts for routine emails.

Roger indicated that an interest in meeting two times monthly had been raised. Jake H. made the motion to hold regular meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Jimmy G. seconded, and the motion to carry was unanimous. Meeting location TBD

**Agenda Item:** Annual Board Meeting Scheduling – June

No action at this meeting

**Agenda Item:** &Estimates Meeting Update

The directors attended a presentation by &Estimates and have received a follow-up inquiry about our interest. At this time, the group is not in need of their services but will ask about their rates for reference.

**Agenda Item:** Venue Design Committee Report

Nothing to report currently.

**Agenda Item:** Events Committee Report

The Belmont County Heritage Tour on April 29 provided 100 visitors and about \$200 in donations. A table will be set up on May 4 for Fun in the Ville.

The Chili Cookoff Fundraiser on May 6 will benefit the theater. We will be raffling off an antique chair donated by Rosalie Gray.

Theater is hosting Barnesville Schools theater group for a tour and a Taco Bar at the Elks Lodge.

Four summer concerts at Barnesville Park will be held along with concessions.

6/25 Shuman family, 7/23 Malcolm Spence, 8/6 Barnesville High School and Alumni Band, and date TBD Enrico Amato.

**Agenda Item:** Guests/Open Forum

The Watt Center is considering showcasing the theater in their 2024 calendar. It may be a nice fit for the 2025 calendar, acknowledging the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the theater.

Luke J. indicated the brochures created by Kathy have been very well received and would like to see them in banks and other public areas around town.

Jacquette stated the 2 Stack BBQ event could be scheduled.

Brandi indicated the library showcase is available for June and July. A small group was formed to install theater items in the showcase.

**Agenda Item:** Final Comments

Dave R. wanted to acknowledge and thank the many people in the room that have worked on the theater, attended meetings, and participated in the effort. This was met with broad agreement and appreciation.

Roger J. asked if anyone has local contractors to be considered for this project, please provide contact information for him.

Roger stated we should consider taking on the Parker & Parker space.

**Agenda Item:** Adjourn

Jake H made the motion, and Brandi L. seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 6 at 5:00 p.m. Location TBD.