

**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation**

February 14, 2021

6:30 PM CST

Meeting held via Zoom Teleconferencing

Attendance: B. Jascoviak, A. Heid, M. Byerly, T. Slatton, L. Bouman, J. Jascoviak, B. Leonard-White, A. Lowe, K. Rasala, M. Reister, J. Jascoviak

Meeting Called to order @ 6:45 PM

**Motion** to approve Minutes of January Meeting. Motion M. Reister, 2nd A. Lowe. Approved.

**Treasurer report –**

Financials are still in transition so will have an informal update this month

- balance \$17,200, pp \$103
- expecting Indiana Arts Commission \$750 grant & Valparaiso Theatrical Company \$500 donation to fund the scholarship
- outgoing payment to Genesisius of \$1400 for ticket sales through online ticketing platform
- uncleared Porter County Expo \$500 deposit for Gala reservation

**Old business:**

- **Park Plays**
  - If to push it past June, would not be eligible to apply for a grant in the next year cycle
  - Due to COVID the grant that funded park plays is no longer available. The park has extended an invitation to us to perform, but it would be in partnership with the Friends of the Dunes.
  - FoD would handle promotions, provide entrance passes, cover event insurance
  - NIETF would be co-producing partner, would determine how many shows & format.
  - Venues could be at either the state or national park, as long as major holiday weekends are avoided
  - NIETF would either need to pay the artists or find a sponsor.
  - No “Pass the Hat” style donation during presentation, though can promote online donations
  - Other Community Parks outside of the Dunes for consideration:
    - Centennial Park (Munster) is also open to being a venue (June-July); additional inquiries made to Coffee Creek (Chesterton), Portage, Crown Point (Bulldog Park)
    - Inquire with local businesses which have open air areas: Gabis Arboretum (Taltree), Anderson’s Winery, hosted at a local church with outdoor space (First Presbyterian Valparaiso, Liberty Bible Chesterton, Heartland Christian Valparaiso, others?)
      - Churches may ask to know content to be presented
  - Theatres expressing interest: Beatniks, Gary Shakespeare, Regional, Seedlings, ImProductions, possibly Genesisius (if church venue not available)
  - Tabled until next month in order to confirm shows and participating theatres prior to continuing logistics
- **Festival**

- Willing to have virtual show presented from previous show on video, with NIETF paying royalty fee: Genesis, VTC, ImProductions, Hammond, Regional, Seedlings, LCTG
- Each theatre would have to figure out the licencing, streaming platform to be used
- Concern raised by 4th Street re: consent of actors on videos to be presented
- If to push it past June, would not be eligible to apply for a grant in the next year cycle
- **Motion** to hold a virtual festival, with structure to be determined based upon streaming rights, before the end of June. Motion L. Bouman, 2nd A. Heid.
  - Put together a sales pitch to invite non-member theatres to participate, with a buy-in structure, outreach to get theatres to re-join
    - Membership dues be taken out of the coverage of streaming rights being paid by NIETF
  - Committee to consist of A. Heid, M. Reister, M. Byerly; task list to be assembled to specify needs, come back to board to seek assistance to complete task
    - Encourage everyone to sell tickets to the streaming festivals, split the proceeds between all the theatres
    - Opportunity to have people get acquainted/re-acquainted with our theatres

**New business:**

- **IAC grant project**
  - No match funds requirement this year in the grants
  - Amount of \$5k
  - Grant cycle starting July 1, 2021
  - **Motion** to apply for funds in the IAC grant program for the upcoming grant cycle., with said grant to support the production of an in-person theatre festival in the geographical area represented and served by NIETF. Motion L. Bouman, 2nd T. Slatton. Approved.
- **Community Foundation Grants**
  - Available Grant Funds:
    - \$10k from Porter County Community Foundation
    - \$25k from Lake County Legacy Foundation
    - \$3k from LaPorte County Unity Foundation
  - **Motion** to apply for Community Foundation Grants in each of the three counties represented in our geographical service area, for the appropriate amounts offered by each organization. Said grants would go towards the production of a live theatre festival throughout Northwest Indiana. Motion J. Jaskoviak, 2nd M. Reister. Approved.

Next meeting will be Sunday March 13, 2021 at 6:30pm on zoom.

Meeting ended @ 7:44 pm