

**Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation
March 2017 – Hosted by 4th Street Theatre, Chesterton, IN**

Attendance: Jerald Jascoviak, Becky Jascoviak, Michael”Doc” Kuhn, Aaron Breford, Matthew Byerly, Angela Heid, Jared Riddle, Andrew Ross

Meeting commenced @ 6:40 pm

Approval of Previous Minutes: **Motion** A. Breford, 2nd J. Riddle. Approved.

No formal Treasurer’s Report this month

Gala:

- Saturday, October 21, 2017 @ Hellenic Center (<http://hellenicculturalcenter.net/>).
- Looking at different possible setups.
 - Volunteer Awards and other smaller lists of awards to potentially be presented during dinner portion of the evening; consensus is that this worked well at 2016 event
 - Date switched to Saturday following commentary from many theaters
 - seeking more formal style event for the 25th Anniversary (Silver Anniversary – “Silver Soiree”)
 - NO VIDEO EXCERPTS – if nominated this year, expected to be live, or to say that there is no excerpt available
- Ticketing information should be posted within next few months
- Luke Bouman has contract in hand. Setting up subteams to outline work. Will meet with them outside of board meetings with reports to board monthly and to stay on budget.
- Idea: Video segments on Facebook leading up to event to increase buzz for Silver Anniversary; also reaching out to Chicago media and Lakeshore Public Media.

Park Plays:

- A grant-funded project in cooperation with the Indiana Arts Commission and Indiana Department of Parks and Recreation. NIETF has been awarded a grant to present a series of Park Plays.
- Opportunity to present a show at the Indiana Dunes State Park in one of a variety of locations best suited to the show. Each performance will allow the theatre to receive 6 free admissions to the park that day and a stipend of \$100.
- Space rental at the theatre will be covered by NIETF through the grant.
- Theatres can apply for their chosen dates and perform multiple times if selected.
- Pursuing a similar opportunity for funding and partnerships in Lake County at the Lake County Parks through the Legacy Foundation.

“This Is My Brave”

- Asking for volunteers (5-6 needed) Similar to last year, will hold Sponsor reception prior to or following event; actual date May 21, 2017 at 3 pm at Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso.

- General Organizational Information: <http://thisismybrave.org>
- Tickets are available at <https://squareup.com/store/nietf> for \$20 in advance, \$25 at-the-door (if available), or \$50 VIP including pre-show reception.
- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/915172348624975/>

Viewer Secretary Report:

- No report made this month
- M. Kuhn made request that updates should at least be given to the board monthly in writing/ come in/over phone.

Sketch Comedy Project

- Starting to schedule submissions for writers for sketch show, will solicit directors within next two months.
- Meeting with theatres beginning in April.
- Initial discussions with Towle Theatre show some interest, possibility of becoming an Associate member of organization in order to participate
- Working on a logo; debating between two prospective names.
- Working on a sponsor package to begin soliciting businesses.
- Weekly meetings have been ongoing to coordinate efforts.

Theatrepalooza & Musical Theatre Workshop

- This year at Valparaiso High School.
- It is held the first weekend of August traditionally. Each theatre has 10-15 minutes of stage time to present an excerpt of a past or upcoming show, put together a string of scenes of a variety of shows, or other presentation. Time is dependent on the number of theatres participating.
- Additionally, each theatre can have an info booth in the lobby to hand out fliers, recruit volunteers, sell tickets, etc.
 - For Theatrepalooza, each theatre has access to \$100 in matching funds from NIETF to support their participation. Though Theatrepalooza isn't until August, must submit your reimbursable request by June 15.
- Production company willing to kick in \$1K to bring production out here, with no housing cost.
- Total Cost \$3600 (\$2600 minus the contribution stated above).
- Potential grant to pursue would cover 20% of artist fee cost for bringing in outside artists to work with the community.
- Set participation fee at appx. \$100/participant to cover costs of program.
- A. Breford, J. Riddle expressed potential concern that we may not be able to recuperate costs, though support seems to be present to move forward with the project.
- Need a rehearsal venue (cost TBD).
- **Motion** to move forward with masterclass with a budget of up to \$3K, with the understanding that attempts are going to be made to recoup costs through grants and tuition. Motion A. Breford, 2nd J. Jascoviak. Approved.
- **Motion** to apply for the Arts Midwest Professional Artist Fee Grant to finance Theatrepalooza Theatrical Workshop in Fiscal Year 2018. Motion J. Jascoviak, 2nd A. Heid. Approved.

NIETF Scholarship

- Ball State scholarship promotion for Junior and Senior in Theatre in memory of Sam Hodsdon, established by Portage Community Theatre upon their dissolution. Work with BSU Theatre department to promote scholarship to students from NWI; invite recipient each year, along with BSU representative, to be present at Gala for recognition?
- Not had outside funding for the last 4 years for NIETF scholarship; Continue to promote smaller scholarship fundraisers (restaurant night, etc.); investigate future investment.
- A. Breford and M. Kuhn will take responsibility for raffle to take place during Theatrepalooza, targeting funds raised for Scholarship Endowment.
- **Motion** to authorize B. Jascoviak to apply for state raffle license for fundraising, budgeted at up to \$100. Motion J. Jascoviak, 2nd A. Heid. Approved.
- M. Byerly raised point that NIETF holding this license would allow the umbrella of protection and legal operation to potentially extend to member theaters holding their own raffles, 50/50 drawings, other related fundraisers
- **Motion** to provide one scholarship of \$500 this year, following the same timetable and guidelines set forth by the board in previous years. Motion A. Breford, 2nd M. Kuhn. Approved
- Board initialized fundraising for self-funded scholarship with a \$20 contribution from J. Riddle.
- **Motion** to participate in Aunt Millie's Bakeries School Spirit program as a means of raising funds towards future scholarships. Motion M. Byerly, 2nd J. Jascoviak. Approved.
- List of applicable products:
http://schoolspiritprograms.com/wp-content/gallery/school_spirit_gallery/Aunt-Millies-School-Spirit-Program-2014-July.pdf
- clip out and save the UPC codes on the bottom of the bread bags. When we collect and turn them in, Aunt Millie's will pay us a nickel for every UPC.
- M. Byerly has volunteered to be coordinator

Meeting end at 8:10 pm