



# DUDAS INSPIRATION VENUE for the ARTS

708 East Main Street Richmond, Indiana 47374

## Minutes

### Board Meeting: September 15, 2019

Present: Jared Adamson, Aaron Clarke, Amy Dudas, Andy Dudas, Pam Fraizer, Chris Gibson, Stacy Gibson, Andrew Hoover, Amy Sekhar

Absent: Matt Socey

#### Welcome

President Andy Dudas called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

#### Minutes from Previous Meetings

Secretary Amy Dudas presented the minutes of the June 2, 2019, Board Meeting for review and approval. After a motion and a second, the minutes of the June 2, 2019, Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

Secretary Amy Dudas presented the minutes of the July 3, 2019, Special Meeting for review and approval. After a motion and a second, the minutes of the July 3, 2019, Special Meeting were unanimously approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Amy Dudas presented the Treasurer's Report, consisting of the Statement of Financial Activities and Statement of Financial Position for the period ending August 31, 2019. Our direct public support has seen an increase in over 200% from last year, and the 2019 fiscal year is the first that we have tracked program and educational income separately (as we had very little of it in 2018 having just started up any public offerings). Amy explained how the line items have been updated in order to separately track each component in order that we can maintain accurate records of each leg of DIVA's mission. Our expenses, of course, have also increased over last year, but we have sufficient income from programs and donations to cover that as well as add to our stock of equipment and furnishings. After opportunity for discussion and questions, it was motioned and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, which motion passed unanimously.

Amy D. also provided the Board with an analysis of ticket sales for the Department of Improv at DIVA. Purchasers are given the option online of rounding up their ticket price from \$7.50 to \$10. While the tracking may not be perfect (the online ticketing plug-in is not as user-friendly as some other, more expensive ticketing options), it does help see how effective that technique has been. Approximately 29% of ticket purchasers have opted to round up their ticket price.

Finally, Amy D. presented a proposed Capitalization Policy to the Board for review and discussion. After a motion and a second, the Capitalization Policy was unanimously approved.



## Report on Expansion Project

Andy reported on the status of the expansion project. He and Amy were scheduled to appear before the Richmond Redevelopment Commission in each of June and July, but those meetings were canceled for lack of a quorum. They did appear at the RDC's August meeting and felt the presentation was very well received. The Palladium-Item published a story about the proposal within a few hours of the meeting, and it generated largely positive but also some extremely negative feedback, mostly from a small group of fiscal conservatives who have been actively vocal against Richmond's current infrastructure initiatives. RDC has asked the city attorney to research options for the funding, if granted, and Amy D. had a conversation with him regarding the possibility of bond funding and/or forgivable loans. The city attorney anticipated consulting with an Indianapolis attorney regarding bond funding and presenting a memo to the RDC. Amy D. and Andy did attend the September RDC meeting, at which we learned the memo had been circulated but they were not taking action on it that day. We are unsure when the RDC will be taking further action, although it is likely there will be a public comment meeting. We hope to gather a large group of people willing to attend and comment in favor. Amy D. did note that the privately-owned Depot building was funding with TIF monies (in two installments of \$500,000 each) through a forgivable loan, so the concept is not new.

## Committee Reports

### *Executive Committee*

No report.

### *Nominating Committee*

New board members Andrew Hoover and Aaron Clarke introduced themselves to the Board.

Amy D. noted that there remain five vacancies on the board. She and Pam will work on providing a slate of prospective candidates for 2020 to discuss at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting.

### *Budget Committee*

Amy D. and Aaron will put together a budget to present at the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting.

### *Live! at DIVA*

The Board was briefed on past (Soveriegn Imperial Court charity drag show) and upcoming (Anthony Truitt – 2 events; DIVA Chamber Series) Live! at DIVA events. We are hoping this opportunity will continue to grow and be used by the community.

### *DIVA Ed (now Community at DIVA)*

This portion of our mission includes allowing groups to use DIVA for meeting space. Uses included Kiwanis and Rotary (special off-site meetings to learn more about DIVA),



Department of Improv at DIVA Improv Workshop, Richmond Community Orchestra board meeting, and Access to the Arts.

#### *DIVA Productions (now Productions at DIVA)*

The Department of Improv continues to flourish. Intentions remain for black box theater and/or an evening of 10-minute plays.

#### *Marketing and Outreach*

DIVA is participating in the Access to the Arts monthly program produced by WCTV, along with Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Arts Museum, Richmond Shakespeare Festival, Richmond Community Orchestra, and Civic Hall.

There have been informal discussions concerning whether there is a need for arts advocacy in Richmond. Andy and Amy D. have been a part of that discussion.

#### *Development and Grants*

We submitted a grant application for the Wayne County Foundation's Key Initiative Grant even though we didn't really meet its parameters. We were not selected. Our proposal to the RDC remains pending and has been discussed above.

Once we get through the RDC process, we would like to begin exploring the idea of hiring a development/nonprofit consultant to help us develop a strategic plan and put into place effective development efforts.

#### *Events*

We would like to have an annual fundraising event but need to carefully plan it out for maximum effectiveness.

### **Old Business**

Amy D. will need to gather updated Conflict of Interest forms.

### **New Business**

Amy D. presented for review and discussion two proposed policies: Inclusion, Diversity, Respect, and Tolerance; and Concern Resolution Path. After a motion and a second, both policies were unanimously approved.

Amy D. presented for review and discussion some proposed Bylaws amendments, as follows:

1. change the time for having the annual meeting from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the fiscal year to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the following fiscal year in order that the year-end financial report will contain all data;
2. rename the Nominating Committee to the Nominating and Governance Committee, adding that the Committee handles governance-related issues; and



3. revise the description of the Budget Committee to require a presentation of a proposed budget for approval at the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting.

These revisions will be presented for approval at the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting.

On a final note, Amy D. and Andy relayed some new history they have learned about the building. Nationally-known photographer Roy Norris Hirschburg (a.k.a Hirschberg) had his studio in 710 in the 50s. In 1957, he was murdered by a woman named Ethel Wise who admitted to having shot him in the heart and the head just outside the studio. Ethel died in November of last year. We have been unable to determine if she was prosecuted for the crime.

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Noe Dudas  
Secretary