



**HI-DESERT PLAYHOUSE GUILD
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2006**

Board Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

Present were Acting President Lisa Furugen, Recording Secretary Marty Neider, Past President Bob Carrington, Board members Cherie Palmer, Robyn Lamb, Kathy Garcia, Kim Peacher, Brian Peacher, Lois Johnson, Becky Boyer, and Al Whitehurst.

Absent were Manny Rincon, and Bruce Chronister.

Interested Parties/Guests: Clea Benson from the JT Chamber Board; Gary Daigneault represented Theater 29; Craig Knudsen, Jarrod Radnich, John Boyd, Jerry Quinn, Rick Beatty, Patricia Smith, and Peggy Rodale.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:01 PM

Acting President Lisa Furugen welcomed everyone, and stated that this meeting had been called to discuss the future of the Playhouse. She said the present Board has been struggling very hard for the past two years, not getting the help from the community, and operating at an extreme overhead deficit. She mentioned that some good things have happened in the past two years, stating she has spent a lot of time mending fences. She stated that with John Stone and Rick Beatty's invaluable help, the tax deficit has been taken care of. Rick Beatty mentioned there is still one state tax form and a \$25 penalty to be paid. Lisa stated that a rough estimate of outstanding debt is \$15,000 with no cash off-set. Lisa said there were three proposals to be presented; one from Theater 29, one from Copper Mountain College and one from John Boyd/Jarrold Radnich. Lisa asked that the Copper Mountain proposal be heard first, then Theatre 29, and then the private group headed by John Boyd and Jarrod Radnich.

Lisa further stated that the Playhouse needs to remain the Playhouse, and not close its doors. Lisa said she cannot go on working 60 hours a week, can't afford it, something has to change.

PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE – COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Al Whitehurst stated he had a Letter of Intent from Copper Mountain College, signed by Chief Business Officer Kindred Murillo. The letter stated they want to see the Playhouse remain a Valley resource, stated they would manage the Playhouse and keep it as the Playhouse and not change it.

PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO – GARY DAIGNEAULT ON BEHALF OF THEATRE 29



Gary stated that if the Playhouse were to dissolve, Theatre 29 would like to take over, keep it as the Playhouse, simply shifting to Board of Directors at Theatre 29. Essentially be producers as it were. Important to have live arts.

Keep it operating, would be willing to operate it. Theatre 29 currently has an eight show season with one special show and the wildly successful Haunted House show. Theatre 29 is entirely separate from Parks and Recreation, and now entirely separate from the City of 29 Palms. They are currently operating with a positive cash flow. They have extensive community resources, and a grant writer who would also write grants for the Playhouse. One of the ideas proposed by the Theatre 29 Board was that a play would open in 29 Palms for three weeks and then move to the Playhouse for three weeks. Co-managing both theaters would mean they could make sure that the seasons don't conflict, deeper pool of actors and directors, etc.

Brian Peacher asked if the Board of Theatre 29 would be willing to take on the existing debt of the Playhouse. Gary said they would not.

Rick Beatty asked if there would be an interlocking board, or separate corporate entities. Gary said they did not plan to get rid of the existing 501.C3, and not get rid of the Playhouse Guild Incorporated.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 3 – JOHN BOYD ON BEHALF OF JARROD RADNICH:

John Boyd and Jarrod Radnich handed out a 17-page proposal to the Playhouse board members, titled "Proposal for: Restructuring of the Hi Desert Playhouse Guild and Repairing the Playhouse." John Boyd spoke of the Board of Directors they want to put in place, and spoke of a professional grant writer willing to take on HDPG as a project for free. John revealed their plans to reduce energy costs, and a plan to increase cash flow. John spoke of commitments from builders to paint the front of the building and improve curb appeal; commitments to install a new, energy efficient lighting system, and a commitment to install a new state of the art sound system. John further spoke of developing a training school for the arts. He stated that the current board would be asked to resign, but stay on as an Advisory Board without voting power. Cherie Palmer was asked to accept a position with the new Board.

John's proposal asked that board members continue their volunteer commitment under the new Board. John asked that Lisa Furugen stay on to contribute what she can as general manager. The recording secretary was asked to take and maintain the minutes for the new board. Becky Boyer and Al Whitehurst were asked to stay on to create publicity and work with computers. Brian and Kim Peacher were asked to stay on to continue to run concessions, and come up with a Ren Faire idea to be held at the Guild Hall. Kathy Garcia was asked to stay and work with the new Board in her capacity as the dance representative. The rest of the current board members were asked to stay and continue their valuable service around the Playhouse.

The proposal talked about pledges to cover the existing debt and keep the doors open, reporting they already have achieved their goal of \$10,000 or more. The need for a permanent liquor



license was outlined. A volunteer coordinator was named, Peggy Rodale, who has contacts in the high and low desert. The proposal stated that the emphasis in the future would be on music and music events because that is where their contacts are, and it costs money to put on a play. Plays would still be a viable part of the season, but not the primary emphasis. The proposal talked about lighting and sound, and getting a grant to replace the marquee with a computer generated sign, talked about publicity and marketing.

The proposal further talked about offering training to our performers, musicians, actors, directors, stage managers, dancers, and technical support people.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS:

Kim Peacher moved that we open the floor for a period of discussion of the three proposals. Becky Boyer seconded the motion.

It was asked and answered that it was not the present Board's intention to close our doors, or dissolve the 501C3 non-profit corporation. After much discussion, the guests were asked to step out of the room so the present Board could meet in closed Executive Session. Rick Beatty was asked to remain behind.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:45 PM

Past President Bob Carrington moved that we accept John Boyd's proposal on behalf of Jarrod Radnich. Cherie Palmer seconded the motion. A discussion followed.

The vote was called:

10 Ayes

1 Abstention

2 Absences

The present board members then tendered their letter of resignation, which was accepted by Acting President Lisa Furugen.

Acting President Lisa Furugen then appointed the new Board of Directors as follows:

Francis Gaskin
Jarrod Radnich
John McKinney
Rick Beatty
Craig Knudsen
Cherie Palmer
Bob Carrington
Peggy Rodale



The new Board of Directors then voted Jarrod Radnich in as Board President.

Acting President Lisa Furugen tendered her letter of resignation.



New email addresses:

Cherie Palmer – cpalmer12@verizon.net

Craig Knudsen – cknudsen@aol.com

John Boyd – Lizarddude@Lizarddude.net

Jarrold Radnich – JarrodRadnich@jarrodRadnich.com

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:15 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Minutes taken and typed by Recording Secretary, Marty Neider.