

Theatre Workshop of Nantucket
Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Friday, October 8, 2021
(via Zoom)

Directors present: Kay Bernon, Jane Forman, Ellie Gottwald, Cecelia Johnson, Susan Lucier, Jean Doyen de Montaignou, Chris Mortenson, Helene Patterson, Maria Roach, Terry Schubach, Elaine Schwartz, Lisa Soeder, David Southwell, Will Steele

Council members present: Victoria Girvan, Jeff Lucier, Les Silverman

Staff present: Justin Cerne, Bethany Oliver, John Shea

Welcome and Call to Order: Board president Susan Lucier called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m

Approval of Minutes of the September 17, 2021: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

President's Remarks (Susan Lucier)

We had an amazing summer filled with tons of work; lots of stress; many surprises; old friends (several actors returning from past productions); and lots of new friends (among our actors, technical staff, donors and audience members). There were many FIRSTS: we built a stage outside at Bartlett's Farm, where we had super-high audience attendance; ran two shows in rep, both indoors and out; staged our first performances with a vaccine/COVID test mandate in place; and housed our actors in our own house (with amazingly generous friends housing the overflow). We battled hurricanes, fog, wind and a COVID resurgence that caused us to cancel our benefit and forced us to take a hard look at the future of theatre under the strain of a pandemic—all without knowing until the beginning of May whether we could have a season at all. And it's not over. There's a reading coming up this month and a holiday show in November-December; we just moved our office out of Bennett Hall back into a legitimate space on Main Street; and many wheels are beginning to turn as we look toward 2022—strategically, artistically, organizationally and financially. We should all be proud of this great organization. Thanks for a great year!

Nominating & Governance (Terry Schubach)

Susan recognized Max Berry, a TWN mainstay for over a decade—as a producer, a board member, and one of our most passionate and effective advocates. Susan recommended that Max be elected an Emeritus Director.

Terry called for a series of motions to:

- elect Richard Doyle as a director for a 2-year term ending at the end of 2023
- re-elect Kay Bernon, Linda Mason, Chris Mortenson, and Maria Roach as directors for a 3-year term expiring at the end of 2024
- re-appoint Bruce Beni, Chris Bloom, Amber Cantella, Anne Fitzpatrick, Kathryn Garre-Ayars, Victoria Girvan, Jill Karp, Peggy Kaufman, Jeff Lucier, and Les Silverman as members of the Theatre Council for a 1-year term expiring at the end of 2022
- elect Max Berry as an emeritus director
- elect the following slate of officers to serve one-year terms expiring at the end of 2022: Susan Lucier, President; Chris Mortenson, Treasurer; Helene Patterson, Clerk; Maria Roach, Vice President; Kay Bernon, Vice President; Ellie Gottwald, Vice President; David Southwell, Vice President; and Will Steele, Vice President

All of the motions were approved by unanimous vote.

Susan noted that all officers serve on the Executive Committee. Terry Schubach and Judy Seinfeld will also serve on the Executive Committee—Terry as chair of the Nominating & Governance Committee and Judy without portfolio.

President's Remarks (cont.)

- We will send Max a departing gift, created by board member and artist, Ellie Gottwald.
- We are reviewing our Standing Committees and we've resumed work on the Bylaws.
- The Strategic Plan Project Team will convene to draft the plan for board review and vote.
- Another friendly reminder: a few 2021 board dues are still outstanding.
- Sincere thanks to our entire staff for their dedication to TWN in spite of the many challenges we faced this year; to the board & council and to John Shea for their continued support and commitment to TWN. We are truly grateful for everyone's generosity, participation and engagement.

Producing Artistic Director's Report (Justin Cerne)

- *London Suite* was both an artistic and a financial success. Ticket sales matched our budget estimate despite the new COVID requirements for audiences—a hopeful sign for the future.
- Our fall show, *Plaid Tidings*, a “riff on *Forever Plaid*,” will be directed by Justin, with music direction by Andrew Graham. Two *Book of Mormon* cast members will appear on stage.
- The Bartlett family is open to discussing ideas for next summer.
- Preliminary budgeting has begun for 2022.

Managing Director's Report (Bethany Oliver)

- TWN got positive feedback on our summer at Bartlett's from town officials.
- The Development Committee will meet next week to discuss the fall appeal and other matters.

Treasurer's Report (Chris Mortenson)

- September financials are not completed, but early indications show results better than expected.
- October will be our worst month and we will drop cash in the 4th quarter; but we should still end the year in a solid financial position.

Facilities Committee (Helene Patterson)

Helene complimented Bethany for “a remarkable job” of both generating revenue from rentals and dealing with repair and maintenance issues. We will not hire a full-time caretaker, but we'd like to find a handyman to be on call.

New Business

Justin said the Pine Grove house is great but we still need additional housing. We are talking with real estate agents and exploring creative options.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lucier, President