Children’s Ballet Theatre

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2021 7:00 PM via Zoom

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| **Attendees: Quorum:** Yes | |
| Hillary Henderson (HH) | **Community Members:** |
| Kelly Joldersma (KJ) | Lisa Whiting Dobson (LWD) |
| Mindy Morgan (MM) | Kate Powers (KP) |
| Sue Powers (SP) |  |
| Matt Rosendale (MR) | **Absent:** |
| David Weissling (DW) | Rich Patterson (RP) |
| Amy Zaagman (AZ) |  |
|  |  |
| **Absent:** |  |
| Cecilia Stajos (CS) |  |

AZ called meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

SP motioned to approve June minutes, MM seconded.

Nutcracker Update/Discussion

SP suggested contacting Holt to get penciled in on their schedule as they are starting to get requests. MR will reach out to Jeff to do this. We are still targeting Wharton, but Holt will be our back-up.

AZ reached out to Mid-Michigan Youth Orchestra about possible collaboration, but has not heard back. It is run by teachers, so they are likely off for summer.

LWD does not think Wharton would be ready to meet with us yet/sign a contract, but they do have us penciled in. This would be true even during a “normal” year.

MM stressed that we need to analyze costs/profits, etc. before we can decide if we can afford Wharton, which has to be our first concern. MR stated that in the past Nutty has basically been a wash financially, but is a good recruitment tool when we are at Wharton.

Member Recruitment

In the past we’ve offered auditions in May/right after spring show, in August and in December/right after Nutcracker. Suggestion has been made to allow auditions to be more flexible and have people audition soon after they reach out and request information/audition. Board agrees this is a good idea if it works for Jesse. HH suggests we should have someone specifically under marketing who will handle auditions/reaching out to those who request info. DW suggests asking Billie Allman to take on this role. She has expressed interest in being the New Family Liaison and these two positions seem to go hand in hand.

MM will reach out to previous members who left during COVID and see if they would be interested in returning. AZ will share previous contact with those members.

Board discussed where else to market beyond social media and also how to get the dancers involved in recruitment via social media. Suggestions included having the company assistants lead a session on promoting CBT on social media.

Make sure we drive people to the website. Discussion around having the website be more useful. KP asked if a community board member could volunteer/help with this and other committee work where they have a talent/expertise. KP has skills that could be used in terms of the website. SP suggests that if KP is willing she take over the website. KP agrees to take over the website! THANKS KATE!!!

Summer Company

Performances at the Ingham County Fair, August 7 sometime between 5 and 7 PM, Mint Festival August 14 and 15 at 1 PM. Will be paid $100 for fair performance. Still possible performances with Jazz and Blues fests if they happen. Happendance is going to lend us their floor.

Need posters/cards to hand out advertising auditions. MM also suggested having a clipboard to capture contact info. of anyone who expresses interest.

Treasurer’s Report

There are nine dancers in summer company which will result in tuition payments of $2250. Two-thirds of that tuition has been collected. We have also received a few donations including one from David Grist. Summer costs are covered and shows have covered their costs this year, but we need about $60,000 annually to cover rent, insurance and to pay Artistic Director and Ballet Mistress. With 26 dancers in the company we are making less than half of that amount. We need at least 40 dancers to survive financially.

Insurance cost is one area where we may be able to find some savings. Current cost is high and we also need to explore if we are over insured now that we are renting space from Danceworks. Also need to see if we are over insured in terms of property insurance (props and wardrobe). Renewal date of currently policy is in September. DW suggests getting a quote from Mason Insurance (Pete Hanover). This is also who Danceworks uses.

AZ and Angela Oliver are working on two grand opportunities.

-Ingham County Sunrise Grant. Due July 30th. MM moves that the board should pursue this grant. SP seconds. No one opposes.

-National Endowment for the Arts direct grants to arts and cultural organizations. Due August 12th. Grants of $50,000, $100,000 and $150,000. KP moves that the board should pursue this grant. SP seconds. No one opposes.

AZ plans to call a meeting of the fundraising committee in August to determine what fundraising we will do in the fall.

Old Business

AZ will send updated forms for Artistic Director and Ballet Mistress evaluations and will get those scheduled.

AZ, SP and KJ spent many hours working on policy revisions. Board was sent document with deletions, questions, etc. Board discussions focused around areas of technique requirements and committees (see below). After discussion DE motioned to adopt revised policies and procedures as discussed. MR seconded. No one opposed. Policies will be sent to membership with an effective date of August 1, 2021.

-Technique requirement: As we no longer have CBT academy, what are our requirements for where dancers take their ballet technique classes? Board discussed and decided that we will allow technique to be taken anywhere. AZ will check with Jesse to determine if current hours requirements (Level 1: 1 hour/week, Level 2: 1.5 hours/week, Level 3: 2 hours/week) are still appropriate.

-Committees: Board will discuss committees at August meeting. Including which committees/positions need to be “linked”/work together. Possible assignment each family to “pre-show” and “during show” committees/jobs. Hour commitments.

DW also suggests that we need to update to costume loan policy in order to protect our aging wardrobe.

Board will also chaperoning hours, number of chaperones needed, etc. as well as platform (zoom vs. in person) of future meetings at the August board meeting.

Next meeting Aug 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM via zoom.

MM motions to adjourn at 9:17 PM, SP seconds.