Children’s Ballet Theatre

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2021 7:00 PM via Zoom

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| **Attendees: Quorum:** Yes |
| Hillary Henderson (HH) | **Community Board Members:**  |
| Kelly Joldersma (KJ) | Rich Patterson (RP) |
| Mindy Morgan (MM) | Kate Powers (KP) |
| Sue Powers (SP) | Cecilia Stajos (CS) |
| Matt Rosendale (MR) |  |
| David Weissling (DW) | **Absent:**  |
| Amy Zaagman (AZ) | Lisa Whiting Dobson (LWD) |
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| **Artistic Staff:** | **Others:** |
| Jesse Powers (JP) | Casie Medina (CM) |
|  | Angela Oliver (AO) |

AZ called meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

KJ will add RP to August meeting minutes. MM moves to accept minutes as amended. DW seconds. None opposed.

Appointment of new board member

CS will move to community board member status as Sophia is no longer a member of the company. This creates a need to appoint a new board member. DW motions to appoint Casie Medina (CM) to fulfill the remainder of CS’s term. MM seconds. None opposed.

Treasurer’s report

Currently 27 dancers in the company. Season tuition and registration fee from 27 dancer is $14, 175. At the end of the season if we continue as is we will have a deficit of roughly $30,000.

Liability insurance cost will decrease after an audit of coverage.

Nutcracker Update

Venue is priority at this time. Charlotte is booked, Holt is unsure if they will be renting to outside parties. MR is in contact with Patengill/Eastern HS. Wharton is holding that week for us. They would like a production meeting the second week of October. In 2018 (last time at Wharton) CBT lost approximately $11,000. RP states with program sales, ads, etc. it was basically a break even. Board would be interested in seeing a quote for the full time as well as an abbreviated time. MM suggests finding an underwriter. Board agrees Wharton is the goal, but would need to have a backup as we are not in a position to take a risk on a possible financial loss. Discussion around options including less shows, two shows on Saturday, etc.

CS suggests checking with Waverly. KJ will check with Okemos, HH will check with East Lansing, CM will check with Grand Ledge. Other places suggested to look into include Perry, Hannah Center, St. Johns, Dart (LCC), Lansing Center, Dewitt, Potter Center (Jackson College). Board members will send contact info to MR for any of the above.

Discussion around who we can reach out to as donors/underwriters. We must let sponsors know that we would need to reach our goal amount (amount TBD) in order to hold Nutcracker at Wharton and also what we will do with donation if goal is not met. Must make sure to emphasize need regardless of where the show takes place. KP feels it is doable. Benefit would be huge (exposure/recruitment) if we could get there. Reaching out to donors needs to be a conversation with people/organizations we already know in the community that have a strong love for seeing/assisting children in the arts rather than cold asks. MM suggests forming a subcommittee to determine ask, goal, work on a donor information packet. HH, MM, KP, SP AZ will be on this committee.

Little Guest Dancers

Board feels we should have little guest dancers, ages 6 and 7 (with some discretion for younger or older), this year and agrees there should be a fee to participate. Amounts from $100-150 are suggested. CS motions $150, MM seconds, but some object. DW suggest a compromise of $125. No objections. JP say he will try to accommodate all who are interested. Definitely can do five.

Show Expenses

Board reviewed show expenses document. Need to add $350-500 for load in load out now that we no longer have a donated semi. AO says she may have someone who will donate the use of a semi. She will reach out and report back to board. Will use the new graphic designer that was used for Snow White; budget will be $1000. JP will let MR know the number of drops by the end of the week. DW is trying to keep props at $500 or less; wardrobe will do the same. Board would like to research finding a less expensive lighting person. We will have three male guests: Wolf, Dustin and Michael Smith.

Going forward, board needs to work on an Annual Budget in August.

Board reviewed document with committee assignments for Nutcracker season.

Artistic Director Report

Everything is going great. CBT and Happendance collaboration (level 2 dancers) show will be in October. Casting modifications due to Jillian Hamiln choosing not to join the company after return to company: Kylah will be Aunt Drosselmeyer, Arabian Lead will be a principal role. Choreography is evolving. Chinese will be revamped. Other dances will be changed in the moment.

Fundraising

Coupon Books are underway. Most, but not all, have chosen to buy out. Families asked to sell at least six books or buy out ($100).

Possible interim meeting or vote by email if we need to move on venue. Next scheduled meeting Oct 10, 2021 at 7PM via zoom. Will hold dancer/parent meeting next week Sunday at the beginning of rehearsal, in person with zoom option, to share what we know and talk about fundraising.

SP motions to adjourn at 9:31 PM, MM seconds.