

**OLT Board Meeting Minutes : January 20, 2022**

**Board Members Present:**

X	Brad Storey	X	Makayla Kenyon-Ortiz
X	Robby Burt	X	Jessica Kropp
	Judy Kropp		Eva McAllister
X	Bill Hays	X	Alex Night
X	Lamar Austin	X	Rudi Timmerman
	Amanda Baker		Julie Ulmer
	Jered Biard		

Visitors: Ann and Marvin Glenn

The meeting was called to order. Previous meeting's minutes were approved.

**Financial Report:** There is \$1485.80 in First Financial. Our current Union Bank balance is \$24,063.10. with just under \$16,000 of it for the Burn The Mortgage at this point. The Arvest operating account had an approximate balance oof \$3100. These totals reflect the money spent for the work on Suite A which was right under \$20,000.

**House – Robby:** The work on Suite A was completed last week. The black mold was taken out and the floor has been replaced. However, there is more mold work to do. There are issues with the toilet area and water/moisture on the floor. We will see if possibly L&M will work on that. There is moisture on the new floor. Brad said the water in front seems to be drying up. It's a work in progress. Jason has not called Brad back yet, but Brad plans to ask him about the mold he noticed growing on the bottom of the outside wall.

Some discussion was had over our plans for Suite A and whether we should rent it out or if we could make use of it in some way for theatre purposes (rehearsal space, etcetera.)The general consensus was that we should rent it out, not only for much needed income but for foot traffic. Jason had told Bill that we should ask at least \$500 but some believed that to be too high for what people would probably be willing to pay for it. Judy had consulted a real estate agent who gave an estimate of \$425-\$450 based on the area and what others are paying for nearby spaces. However, it will be several months before we can rent it out. There are a few minor repairs left—the front floor needs to be painted and the ceiling tiles need to be replaced or painted, as well as the walls.

Bill brought up the issue of the 3 big windows upstairs. They are single pane and causing a lot of extra moisture. He has heard from other sources that there is a very high chance we could get new ones donated. This would not take care of installation, but we could likely get the new windows for free. Brad will get measurements soon.

**Play Selection – Lamar:** One Acts are set for March 4-6. Ann is still looking for a new play to do that will be more compatible with the other two plays. Robby and Jessica's plays are each about 40 minutes. With three 40 minute plays, there would likely be two intermissions. Robby would like to do performances during the week for the schoolkids, using the OLT as a space for the college. It was decided that in return for borrowing the space for this purpose, the college will pay the royalties for his play's three performances. Rudi made a motion for this, Robby seconded, and the motion passed.

Brad opened discussion about the possible content rating of plays based on a couple of audience members who were unhappy with language and sexual innuendo in “Doublewide, Texas.” All angles of this issue were thoroughly discussed by all, as each board member had a chance to weigh in on this serious topic. First, a written response from Judy was read aloud. Julie, Jered, and Amanda's opinions had been sent out by email earlier in the week and all Board members who were present had read them. The general consensus was that even the concept of what is considered mature or inappropriate for young audiences is incredibly subjective, and while we do need to take into account what our community's preferences/comfort zone is, it is also our responsibility as an arts organization to open people's minds. Also, that a rating system would pose its own challenges, especially if this rating system were only up to one to a few people.

It was agreed that what Judy suggested—that a simple and tasteful content warning for specific things like “mild language”, “sexual content”, or “mature themes” be included along with the advertising for some shows, so that people may decide for themselves what they are comfortable seeing or bringing young family members to see. Robby pointed out that we need to be consistent in our warnings across every medium: if we print a warning in the paper, we also need to include it on Facebook/Instagram and on the sign outside/programs, etcetera.

Ann Glenn is working on developing a Reader's Theatre. Jessica is loaning her some books on reader's theatre as she is actively coming up with ideas.

Matilda will run sometime in May. Some of the royalties still need to be paid. Judy and Jessica put down a deposit; there is a \$1700 balance which Bill will pay this week.

Jered is still set to direct the Monty Python parody play with JOLT.

Brad is preparing a script based on the classic novel Silas Marner for the fall.

John Puddington originally planned to direct “The Man Who Comes To Dinner” this Christmas. However, since a few meetings ago, it was brought to the Board's attention that this year is JOLT's turn to present a Christmas play, Lamar let John know that he could produce his play Christmas 2023.

**Publicity and Movie Night – Julie:** Julie needs definite dates and times for Matilda auditions and performances, as well as any information from Jessica on her one-act play. She will also put the upcoming concert on Feb. 26 on the radio calendar of events and on the community calendars of the papers as well as Facebook the second week of February. She tabled the movie night discussion until next month.

**Eva – Membership:** Eva has tested positive for Covid and was not at the meeting, but is actively working on sending out membership cards and season tickets.

**Box office – Amanda:** Amanda tested positive for Covid last week and could not attend the meeting, but emailed in a report which was read aloud. Aside from a volatile situation with a new

volunteer during a performance, “Doublewide” was a positive experience and “every cast and crew member went above and beyond.” She also reported that the 2 person box office system seems to have been a success, in part due to family members/spouses working together. She would like to talk with Bill before the next show to double check that this new procedure works, and would love more volunteers for box office.

**IT – Jered:** Jered got the copier fixed and paper replaced. Some questions were raised about the website, but discussion was tabled for next month when Jered is present.

**New Business:** Ouachita Strings would like to hold a concert on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. There was some questioning over this as “Matilda” will likely be rehearsing, so Jessica will be looking into that to make sure that isn’t a conflict. This would also be after our March Board meeting, so we would need to be sure and be out in plenty of time for them to get set up.

Bill motioned to adjourn, Makayla seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully,

Alex Night (substituting for Judy Kropp, secretary)