

**Minutes of the Los Alamos Little Theatre
Board of Directors Meeting
April 5, 2011**

Present: Pat Beck, Eric Bjorklund, Gracie Cainelli, Todd Graves, John Gustafson, Kaki Kelly, Jim Sicilian, Bobbie Simpson, Roxanne Tapia, Warren Houghteling

Absent: None

Visitors: Janina Greene

Kaki called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Minutes

The Board took action on a backlog of minutes and approved minutes from the meetings of January, Feb. 8 (amended before approval), March 1 and March 15.

Treasurer's Report

Bobbie distributed the Treasurer's Report. She noted LALT had not yet received the check for \$1,000 from Theatre New Mexico. She also pointed out that Moonlight and Magnolias had two budget lines, one for the LALT performances and one for participation in the state and regional competitions.

In response to questions Bobbie said that we had not yet been reimbursed on the royalties for *A Class Act* and that the royalties for *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* appear twice, which she will correct.

Mail

Bills, bills, bills. No check (TNM) in the mail.

House Report

Landscaping (see below) and painting. Time to start thinking about sprucing up for when LALT hosts AACTFest in 2013.

Concerns

Gracie sent a card to a member she heard was going to have surgery.

New Business

Landscaping Proposal

Janina Greene presented a cost estimate she had secured from Phil Hofer of Oasis Landscaping for fixing up the area in front of the PAC and creating a space that requires less maintenance. The work includes removing the old mulch cover, replacing the weed-barrier fabric, laying down and leveling gravel (Santa Fe Brown), inserting a few key plantings in the area, rebuilding the bulb beds, and pruning/removing/replanting shrubs and trees. The proposal bid was for \$5,364 but it will need to be re-costed because it was provided a while ago. The company also would maintain it regularly for \$500 annually.

Janina recently spent time weeding and pruning the front area, but it is at a point where some concentrated effort would be useful.

Jim noted that Valerie Cooper also made some significant efforts to the area several years ago and it would be useful to get her input on the matter. He also wondered whether the Master Gardener's Club might be willing to take it on as a project (the created the xeriscape space around the old Municipal Building site). John said he would make contact to see if they would be interested. (Note: On contact we learned Master Gardeners are available to consult on designs but cannot take on the labor of executing a design.]

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress

Roxanne and Jim presented a budget of \$2,406 for the show. There was some small discussion but the items all looked pretty standard. John moved to accept, Pat seconded and it was approved unanimously.

The Board considered a request from UNM-LA to donate two tickets for *Five Women* for a fund-raising auction. Gracie showed a gift coupon she had developed in case the Board approved. The Board unanimously approved giving three gift coupons, each for a pair of tickets, to the UNM-LA auction.

Chamber of Commerce Membership

Question was put to the Board about re-newing membership in the LA Chamber of Commerce (LALT was a member in the past, but let the membership lapse). Bobbie said she did not believe there was any added value to being a member. Roxanne noted the opportunity to participate in CoC events. Pat said attending the monthly CoC Coffee Klatsch provided insights into other upcoming activities from which LALT might benefit. Warren moved and Roxanne seconded that LALT become a CoC member. The motion was passed by a majority vote (one opposed). Roxanne, Pat and Warren will serve as LALT points of contact to the CoC, and will get the word out on any events/opportunities in which LALT might engage. Pat will get information to Bobbie for paying the membership fee (\$115 per year for non-profit organizations).

Directing Workshop

The proposed Directing Workshop to be led by Victor Talmadge would cost \$500 to put on and be held April 30. It has a limit of 15 participants (though some question whether others can "audit" the course). There was some discussion about what amount of the cost LAT should subsidize and what should be borne by the participants. In the end it was decided that participants would be charged \$15 each and LALT would pick up any uncovered costs (\$485 if only one participant and \$275 if 1 participants).

Roxanne will get word out to persons who had indicated interest in directing for the one-acts and Kaki or Todd will get out word to the general LALT list-serve.

Insurance Rider

Gracie has been in communication with the insurance company to get an additional rider on the LALT coverage policy for “hired and non-owned auto” to provide liability coverage to LALT for the trek to Lewisville, TX, for participation in the regional competition. The rider is \$149 per year (pro-rated at \$116 for 2011). Gracie had given the agent the green light to add the rider prior to the Board meeting.

There was some discussion about including the rider for “hired and non-owned autos” as a regular part of LALT’s coverage (consider when LALT members take trips to the dump, for example, or make a trip to Santa Fe to pick up refreshments or food for the annual meeting), but a decision on that was deferred to a later Board meeting.

The Board discussed the fact that the insurance only covers LALT. The Board also approved the \$31/day coverage for the driver (Ken Milder) of the rental truck being used to transport the Moonlight and Magnolias set to Lewisville.

Annual Meeting

A quick check of calendars and people’s availability (especially Bobbie’s) led the Board to pick May 22 as the date for the annual meeting. John, Roxanne and Gracie will develop the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors election. Holdovers from the current Board are Kaki, Roxanne and Bobbie

Old Business

Irrational Exuberance Actor Development Project

Warren and Roxanne had distributed before the meeting their proposal for a program that creates opportunities for those interested in acting to develop their skills further. They basically were looking for Board approval to continue their efforts and to be able to represent these activities as a part of the LALT. The Board agreed they should continue their rationally exuberant efforts and that as an LALT activity there should be some regular presentation to the Board about what’s in the works. Board members also suggested connecting with UNM-LA’s Fine Arts Department to see if there are any joint interests or activities that could be pursued.

2011-12 Season: Signed Agreements

Kaki said she was still lacking signed agreements for *The Giver* and the 8x10s (though individual directors have not yet been chosen, Kaki would like an agreement from the producers, Roxanne and Pat).

Roxanne had forwarded the agreement from Deborah Magid for *Cowboy Poet* (via e-mail) March 17. The agreements for *An Inspector Calls* and *A Thousand Clowns* had been placed in the President’s mailbox in the office.

LALT Scholarship

Bobbie said we had received three scholarship applications and she had given them to Peggy Durbin. The Board asked Bobbie to remind Peggy that she is to give a recommendation to the Board for its approval.

Piano Tuning

Eric asked that the Board make a final decision on the proposal from Richard Hanneman to tune the LALT pianos as part of his learning the craft of piano tuning. There were concerns about potential damage to the pianos and access to the theatre. Flip side is that the longer the pianos go un-tuned the harder it is to tune them. Eric moved and Warren seconded that we approve providing Hanneman theatre access to tune the two LALT pianos, but the motion failed seven to three.

House Management

Warren intends to draw in additional ideas regarding his proposal for an effective house management role to avoid some of the difficulties that have been experienced with seating people in the auditorium.

Internet Access

Eric reviewed the details of the information form Qwest regarding establishing Internet access at LALT. Such access would make it possible to do on-line research while developing shows at the theatre building or download sound files or other materials. There were several options available, of increasing capability and cost. The Board opted for a minimal approach that would let members test-drive the capability and determine its value. Jim moved and John seconded that the Board sign up for a monthly program for 1.5 Mbits connectivity at a cost of \$94 per month (which would include our regular phone usage, which currently runs \$32.90 a month). The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Report

There is only one show currently with a liaison – *Five Women* – and there was not much to report. There is so much Board participation in the production that the liaison role is almost moot. Nonetheless, he liaison reported that al seemed well with the production of *Five Women*.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2010