

Monday, July 12th, 2021 Theatre Minutes

In attendance: Karleen Basch, Farnaz Finn, Patrick Finn, Tamika Watkins, Debbie Klein, Kedra Gottlieb, HOA Manager Cary Brackett and Stefany.

The Hidden Hills Theatre Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:04 by Karleen Basch, chairwoman. There was a motion of approval of the June minutes along with roll call. Stacey Rosen is on vacation, and Carrie had a doctor appointment, so she was not present.

The first item on the agenda was Jaxx and an update in regard to the fall and spring shows. The fall show will be the ensemble piece, "The Suessical," and the spring show will be the "School of Rock." The fall dates for show will be approximately November 12 and 13th and the spring show approximately early May. Farnaz mentioned that the committee could have a different director and it was agreed upon we would have Jeff, the one that directed "Willy Wonka" which became a Zoom show.

Cary informed the committee that the set storage shed at the HOA building need to be removed soon and since it is an old unit that violates safety codes. Farnaz, Tamika and Debbie offered to help, go through background stage sets in the storage unit dating way back from Gloria's Theatre. It was mentioned by Tanika that perhaps we could donate some these older sets to Boys and Girls Clubs. The clean-out needs to be completed by August. (David Stanley had offered to help in a prior meeting).

The second item on the agenda was the Backyard Broadway Proposal by Mandy Kaplan. She joined the Zoom meeting at 10:25am and gave her ideas on a theatre workshop for children ages 7-11, which would include improv games, singing and choreography games. After her presentation, there were questions about if she had a staff, or if it would be just her alone, teaching the kids. She replied that it would only be her teaching the children and there would be no other staff members. If she had to cancel a day, she would make it up at the end of the session. Her pricing per a child was reasonable, about \$35 per class, for 8 classes and a sibling discount. During the interview, Farnaz had asked how her tenure with JAXX, Mandy stated she had worked for the company many years yet the parting amicable, due to the Co Vid pandemic.

She also mentioned she was a former member of Jaxx for years and directed shows at Round Meadow School. Tamika asked her if her employment with Jaxx had ended amicably, and she responded yes, she was let go during the pandemic. After interviewing her furtherly, she had answered many questions, she and then she left the Zoom presentation. Kedra wanted to know if there could be any issues hiring a former Jaxx staff member. Karleen stated she had learned in the last fifteen prior to when the actual theatre meeting commenced, Jaxx did not feel the parting with Mandy was friendly and amicable. Debbie mentioned that it sounded like a great alternative fun workshop, but Mandy could potentially poaching clients from Jaxx. After more discussion, Farnaz made a motion to vote to not move forward with Backyard Broadway and find another company. All decided that were present agreed that we should not move forward with Backyard Broadway.

Debbie said she would see if she could find another company to make a proposal. It was also noted by Patrick Finn that a “waiting room” needed to be created on Zoom so guests, or prospects just don’t suddenly pop on the screen out of nowhere, as what happened with Mandy during the meeting. Karleen had stated she would be going out of town in August, and since there were others that may not be present, it was agreed we would skip an August meeting and meet again in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

Minutes submitted by Karleen