

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

Monday, October 27, 2014 at 6:30 PM

Cinematheque, Main Floor, 100 Arthur St.

### **MINUTES**

IN ATTENDANCE – NON VOTING: Mark Borowski, Iain Coates, Marcel Kreutzer

IN ATTENDANCE – VOTING: Cecilia Araneda, Jaimz Asmundson, Alain Delannoy, Scott Fitzpatrick, Daniel Gerson, Rylaan Gimby, Ivan Hughes, Kayla Jeanson (Secretary), Merit Jensen Carr, Darryl Kinaschuk (Deco Dawson), Ami Kotler (Chair), Patrick Lowe, Mike Maryniuk, Judith Morrow, Jenny Ng-Turner, Kevin Nikkel, Stéphane Oystryk, Justin Pike, Jim Pomeroy, Rhayne Vermette, Brian Verot, Curtis Wiebe, Ben Williams, Aaron Zeghers

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**1. Call to order** – moved by Jaimz Asmundson, seconded by Rhayne Vermette at 18:45.

**2. Approve agenda** – It was noted that while the agenda was distributed via the website, online newsletter, and social media, some members found difficult to track down, and not all members were aware that the agenda had been distributed. Also, the report was only issued at the door to this meeting. Motion to add discussion of proposed motions at the end of the meeting – made by Kayla Jeanson, seconded by Patrick Lowe. Motion to approve agenda made by Deco Dawson (Darryl Kinaschuk), seconded by Scott Fitzpatrick.

Report was read for 15 minutes.

### **3A. Open discussion**

Discussion of why it took the board so long to book the SGM following the original request and questions submission. Members mentioned that they were disappointed that they did not have the opportunity to read the report before the meeting.

Questions about abilities, transparency, and objectives of the board were posed. Much discussion of the bylaws and whether or not members can make motions, and if so, what kinds of motions they can make. Questions regarding the governance structure of the WFG. Chair Ami Kotler noted that the WFG's bylaws are problematic the way they are currently structured, because it is not clear in the document that they are an overlay on top of laws and regulations that govern non-profits and charitable organizations. He informed the group that he had already committed to reviewing the bylaws, noting this would not be a fast process, but an important one nonetheless. One specific suggestion was to include a clause that members can only make motions that don't contravene the constitution unless the motion is to amend the by-laws directly.

Suggestion from Merit Jensen Carr that the WFG consider adopting the working-board governance structure of On Screen Manitoba, a member-driven association by corporate structure, to enable board-led programming development with committees directly directing the work of individual staff. As a minimum, the board should engage in a formal process with current board and alumni involved to review the governance structure at the WFG and Merit agreed to develop a motion to this end to be brought forward at the upcoming AGM.

Deco Dawson reiterated his concern that agendas and reports were not being disseminated before general meetings in a timely fashion. Cecilia Araneda committed to more advance notice for these items at this and next year's general meetings, specifically committing to have the

annual reports for the upcoming AGM available to the public by November 10, 2014. In future years, the AGM documents will be sent out at least two weeks ahead of the meeting date.

### **3B. Discussion of the specific questions outlined on the agenda.**

Items that sparked most conversation were regarding equipment repair and the need for new policies to be implemented to regulate these functions.

Discussion of the board's policy for not developing artistic programming for the WFG or Cinematheque. Ideas for programming are to be taken to the applicable staff for their review and can be brought forward by anyone in the community, not just board members.

General comments regarding the Production Centre department:

- There was a request for more casual and low/no cost networking events from the membership, though it was acknowledged that Ben Williams and the Production Centre have successfully held a number of community-building events over that past year, such as the annual production centre info session, the member premieres, the member meet and greet, hosting the actor/filmmaker potluck, etc. It was specifically noted that there was the desire by the membership that the Production Centre host more events where alcohol was served.
- Comments about wanting to have a voice in equipment acquisition and maintenance planning for the Production Centre. Cecilia Araneda committed to host three feedback sessions on Production Centre programs and services offering during the next year, as a one-year pilot initiative replacing the annual Production Centre info session, so as to facilitate formal communication on this topic between members / interested members of the general public at large and Production Centre staff.
- Comments encouraging the WFG to find more money to invest in the Production Centre's equipment and equipment repair budgets.

Questions regarding the status of The Hub project and concerns expressed in light of the Plug In situation. Cecilia Araneda re-affirmed that the project was not as advanced as many members believed. For some time, the WFG board has been unable to engage in private sector fundraising prior to leading such a project, and as a result, project partner Artspace is now in the lead. There are no current or expected financial or mortgage commitments to this project. A major financial commitment of this kind can only be authorized by the WFG's board of directors.

### **3C. Discussion of proposed motions.**

The idea of an "open-theatre" screening series is questioned again. The written answer provided dispels the possibility due to conflicts between artist-fees and 'programmed work', but discussion surrounding this idea suggests it is actually not an unrealistic one.

More discussion of proposed informal "town-hall" type meetings – this would increase chances for the public to connect with the board and generate communication throughout the year.

Discussion regarding the validity/risk of holding in-camera sessions during board meetings. The need for further board education is emphasized.

**4. Motion to adjourn** – made by Patrick Lowe, seconded by Aaron Zeghers at 23:23.