

Metropolitan Theatre Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2016

Present: Jeff Mikorski, Jay Redmond, Ken Weiss, Keith Reed, Tina Tallaksen, Josh Williamson, Bill Kawecki, Joe Kaehler, Ron Justice, Robyn Hess

Rick called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Minutes for the previous meeting were not available.

The first topic of discussion was Jeff's announcement that the City had received a letter officially saying that the Theatre would not be part of the BOPARC budget effective July 1st. Another means to manage the Theatre would have to be determined.

Ron Justice stated that, speaking as a member of the BOPARC board, they were reluctant to part with the Theatre, but due to ever tightening budgets, they were forced in to this situation. Ron then presented his case promoting WVU for managing the Theatre. He elaborated on the partnership of WVU with the public theatre group (formerly WV Public Theatre) and the advantages of having WVU manage the Theatre. In this 5 year plan, WVU would take over all management of the Theatre, do booking arrangements, promotion and marketing. The \$1.00 per seat fee would still go to the City for deferred maintenance. Joe Kaehler would remain with BOPARC in another capacity. It was agreed that Ron should proceed with further development of a formal proposal for the Commission to consider.

Bill Kawecki pointed out that this situation also provides an opportunity for the City to develop a broader scope for a cultural umbrella commission that could oversee the Metropolitan Theatre, the Amphitheatre, the Morgantown History Museum, and Mon Arts as well. There are other options such as an outside management company, or the Met. Commission would become the managing entity. Bill proposed contacting a consultant familiar with such operations for advice.

It was agreed that the Commission would meet again in 2 weeks to further discuss the matter. Rick will send emails with details of where and when.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Rick McEwuen, Chair, secretary