

**Present:** Kate Bates, Matt Brown, Kerry Hadley (Director), Nora Hayes, Beth O'Connor, Renee Hutcheon, Marc Ratner (Chair), Don White (Select Board Liaison)

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 12, 1 p.m.

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Marc Ratner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Family Film Festival Update:** The movies continue to be a success. *Frozen* was shown in February with 108 attendees, including 30 young girls in costumes. In March *The Princess Bride* was also well attended with 135 paid tickets. Beth suggested focusing on cult classics for movies since they seem to draw a good crowd. *Shrek* is next. Matt will provide memorabilia and a sing-a-long to accompany the movie.

We brainstormed summer Date Night movie possibilities, such as *You've Got Mail*; *Annie Hall*; *Almost Famous*; *Moonstruck*; *Say Anything*; *Notting Hill*. Next year, Marc suggested including *Raiders of the Lost Ark* as part of the winter series. We also discussed the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

**Opera House Manager Report:** Jack Hanna's performance sold out. The meet-and-greet sold out in its first week and was probably underpriced. Overall, the event broke even, accomplishing its objectives of bringing a great show to town and generating a lot of publicity for the Opera House.

Other recent events include a sold out Camden Conference – best ever. Also a Michael Moore documentary was well attended. Winterfest has booked CJ Chenier again for Winterfest, 2/9/17. The band drew 250 people, getting almost all of them out of their seats and dancing. Upcoming events include Lucie Arnaz, sponsored by The Camden Harbor Inn. Hal McIntyre will be here for Mother's Day. Everyman Repertory will perform *Casablanca* in July. Las Caffertas has been pitched for October. Kerry has submitted a grant for the New England Foundation for the Arts with UCONN, Portland Ovation, and World Arts to group route a dance troupe from LA called BODYTRAFFIC, appearing in Camden in Spring 2017. (\*\*Kerry has since received word that this grant has been funded!!\*\*)

We looked at the proposed text for the plaque outside of the building. The Historic Resources committee will look at it on April 11 and provide their input. They are an advisory committee.

**Budget Review:** We discussed the upcoming budget committee presentation. Kerry plans to lead with the positives and focus on the expanded offerings at the Opera House. Matt and Kate noted that this has been a particularly challenging budget review due to limited information and a large increase in the proposed budget.

**Old Business:** There has been no progress on securing a merchant services account. We discussed making sure we have some offerings with name recognition. Mary Chapin Carpenter and Jack Hanna were sell outs.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Bates