

Friends of the Washington Theater
Minutes - February 25, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

Present: Sharon Bartelt, Garris Brown, James Calef, Kathi Dooley, Brian Durante, Kayla Fuller, Brian Heinze, Jim Lawrence, Signe Oakley, Amy Peters, Brian Stitt, Linda Shultz, and Paul Westerhoff.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved with two corrections. Paul motioned and Sharon seconded.

The financial report was approved. Brian motioned and Paul seconded.
The budget was tabled. We need to finalize income and expenses.

Old Business

New FOWT member, Linda Shultz, was introduced. 14 spots have been filled. There is still one position open.

Strategic plan will be discussed in Amy's staff report.

Brian Durante was named as the secretary.

There is nothing to report on the River's Edge Tax Incentives.

Marketing/Public Relations

Nothing to report

Memberships

Brian suggested that we make the annual meeting more into a membership event.

Staff Report

Amy has designed a social media content plan. See attached sheets.

March is the Tracy Family Grant formal funding. The grant is for general operations under \$45,000.00. Amy will apply.

Amy would like to implement a system for volunteer coordination. This could include a volunteer link on the calendar of events. The link should include a description of the work and a time slot. We need to try to find a pool of volunteers.

Fund Raising

Nothing to report

Building and Grounds

Paul reviewed the current preliminary plans. However, we still need a full list of purposes and spaces before anything is finalized. He suggested we take a look at Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg. The Grand Theater in Keokuk would be worth a look as well.

We need to keep six or so rolls of carpet and get rid of the rest. This should be done in March.

Event Planning

See Amy's attached list of events.

We discussed participating in the Downtown Art Walk. The Art Center is looking for a downtown check in spot, and they will waive the \$250 fee for us. The event takes place on Dogwood Day, and it is from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Amy recommends doing it.

April 12, 2025 will be the dinosaur breakfast. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the movie starts at 11:00 a.m. We're looking at kid friendly breakfast style concessions i.e. mini muffins, PB&J bobo, and bottles of apple and orange juice. The United Way, United We Feud event will be that evening. The doors open at 6:00 p.m.

May 3, 2025 will be movie trivia. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. Jim has come up with categories and questions using AI. Brian Stitt will review it. The committee for this event will be: Pal, Brian Heinze, Brian Stitt, Jim Lawrence, and Sharon Bartelt.

Midsummer Arts Faire will be on June 28 and June 29, 2025.

Annual Meeting

March 25, 2025. We will elect new officers.

New Business

Garris mentioned that Chris Cornwell has a Peavey sound system for sale for \$10, 000. He recommends we purchase it, but there is not necessarily a rush on that.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30. The next meeting is March 25, 2025 in the Council Chambers at City Hall