

## **GATe Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for August 13, 2019**

### 1. Call to order

- a. President Frank Gervasi called the meeting to order at 7:03pm
- b. Present were: President Frank Gervasi, Vice President Bob Zugby, Treasurer Rene Raysor, Secretary Konrad Herling, Board Members Deb Hartwick, Maria Silvia, and Claude Aubert. Not present: Ray Rensor and Kellee Baker

### 2. Approval of board meeting minutes of July 9, 2019

Minutes were approved unanimously after an extensive discussion regarding the necessary amendments.

Amendments were discussed and the July 9, 2019 minutes have been revised to reflect the changes.

### 3. Treasurer's report

- a. Given the prospects of the recent FCC ruling eliminating the revenue derived from cable companies' contributions to public access entities, Rene Raysor recommended an austere budget moving forward. The motion was not seconded.

Discussion revolved around being what we needed to not only survive but to operate at a level necessary to operate in a professional manner.

Maria Silvia Miller advocated that we not be afraid but that we had to move ahead with the basic necessities of improving GATe's operation.

Executive Director Andy Zmidminski identified the needs required to maintain our level of productions with the potential of increasing that level.

Two new tripods with greater digital storage was needed which would cost \$11,000 and that we needed to increase our storage which would cost \$1500.

Further the studio room needed to be updated with a purchase of new computers at a cost of \$1800.

Further yet, we need to replace our computers at a cost of \$9,000, thus a total of \$23,300.

Further yet, two new tripods were necessary at a cost of \$1,000, and an additional \$2,000 for yet another set of new computers.

So, a total \$26,300 was necessary to adequately operate with productions in the studio, classes led by George Kochell, and filming events outside the studio.

Maria Silvia Miller then moved and Deb Hartwick seconded the motion to move ahead and authorize the expenditures as itemized above. The motion was approved with a vote of 6 in favor and Rene abstaining.

#### 4. **President's report**

FCC Ruling - further discussion about the impact.

Painting & Flooring - Frank described the action to give a new and Improved look to  
The office area.

#### 5. Staff reports:

**Executive Director:** Andrew Zmidzinski. Andy reported per his discussion with Mayor Pro-Tem J Davis that the City would not be able to make up for the loss of funding if the FCC's decision becomes effective.

**Program Manager:** Phoebe McPharb

**Animation.** George Kochelle – See email of August 10, 2019 from George

**Key Performance Indicators** – Alan Haley gave his monthly production report.

#### 6. Committee reports

**Administration** (Bob Zugby)

- A. Bylaws assessment and proposed changes – proposals and discussion will take place at the Board meeting of September 10, 2019.
- B. FCC ruling regarding public and municipal access stations could severely impact our funding and standing. Frank, Andy, Bob to gave a report. Frank, Andy, Phoebe, and Konrad heard and read the discussion points with ACM.

**Production/Programs** Maria Silvia Miller reported that sponsors could be a star in funding the older films at \$100/film. By so doing, contributors would secure a membership and their contributions would be included in GATe ads such as those shown on the "big screen" at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. This was moved and approved.

Further, she proposed to the Board that there be gatherings at either or both the Old Greenbelt Theatre and New Deal Café. The idea was approved by the Board for Maria to pursue this possibility.

**Development/Public relations** Konrad met with Maria regarding the film sponsorship idea on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. He did not have any proposal regarding grants but did suggest that GATe develop a grant proposal for the Prince George's County Arts & Humanities Council and Maryland State Arts Council. Further discussion related to reaching out to possible grant writers.

**Communications** (Claude Aubert). Claude was ill and not able to attend the meeting.

**Utopia** (Deborah Hartwick). See August 10, 2019 email from Board Member Hartwick. We currently have 85 submissions for the Festival. We are experiencing our usual rush at the end with many new submissions. The very last deadline is September 12<sup>th</sup>. But we will make our general selections after our next deadline of August 23 leaving room for any special films that may come in.

Additional Note: There are submissions from 17 countries. To this point, there were more films of 40 minutes or less.

## 7. **Old Business**

**Membership Fees.** The Board adopted a flat membership fee of \$25 for Prince George's County residents. The Board also agreed to allow establishing a maximum number of members up to our staff with Greenbelt residents having a preference.

8. Bob Zugby moved and Deb Hartwick seconded the motion to adjourn. The Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:03pm.