

MINUTES
Flamenco de la Isla Society Board Meeting
11 March 2023

Chair: Cat Moores

Attendance: Trudie Begbie, Rem Kirby, Kathleen McCann, Emily Murphy, Amity Skala, Jayne Weatherbe, and Veronica Maguire

Unable to attend: Sandra Berry

Call to Order: 2:40 pm (*via Zoom*)

Board congratulates new Chair, Cat Moores.

Approve Minutes of last meeting: Trudie put forth a motion to accept the Minutes from the February 11 meeting. Seconded by Jayne. All in favour. Motion passed.

Next meeting: June 3 at 2:00 pm

Discussion and Reporting items

1. 2023 Festival Plans - Centennial Square vs Cameron Bandshell Venues

- Flamenco de la Isla Member, Lori Garcia-Meredith, submitted a letter by email (March 10) raising concerns of shifting Festival shows to the Cameron Bandshell and away from Centennial Square. She was informed at the AGM meeting held previous to this meeting that the Board would review and respond to her concerns promptly and that there are no plans to move the Festival permanently out of Centennial Square.
- Security/Safety and production cost concerns raised during a Festival Committee Festival logistics/planning meeting were factors in decision to hold this year's outdoor shows at Cameron Bandshell instead of Centennial Square.
- Pros and cons were discussed:

Centennial Square - Pros

- Centennial Square is available for this year's Festival – renovation dates have not been confirmed
- provides a more festive/dynamic atmosphere
- backstage can accommodate larger dance/school groups which will encourage more families to attend
- existing portable floor can be used
- membership drive allowed
- direct donation requests allowed
- sale of merchandise allowed
- food sales allowed

Centennial Square - Cons

- vulnerable sector or non-performers/volunteers getting on stage and/or backstage can cause security/safety concerns for performers/volunteers
- additional costs include extra security, music equipment rental, sound person, tent rental

Cameron Bandshell - Pros

- easier to manage
- less of a security/safety challenge
- more spectators show up to sit on benches regardless of festival
- no tent rental required
- sound equipment provided
- existing portable floor can be used

Cameron Bandshell - Cons

- not allowed to use audience space for anything including membership drive, donations, merchandise sales, or food sales
- backstage area is too small to accommodate large dance/school groups

ACTION: Festival Committee to check feasibility of using Centennial Square as a venue for this year's Festival and to confirm with the City what costs they will cover in their grant and what costs the Society incurs. The Festival Committee will share their findings with the Board via email as soon as possible, so that the Board can make the final decision about possibly moving the outdoor shows to Centennial Square.

A Security Plan that adequately addresses security/safety concerns will be established by the Board if Centennial Square is to be used. There is currently \$500 in Festival budget allocated for Security. In the past, the Society paid the City for extra overnight Security.

2. Fundraiser – March 25

- tickets for flamenco show at Langham Court are over 50% sold
- promotional push continues – promo postcards available from Cat
- members encouraged to engage through Facebook posts to spread the word
- thank you to Veronica for coordinating the performers and rehearsals
- Amity and Cat working with Langham court on details including total tables needed in the lobby/lounge and possibility of using their mannequins for costume display
- Rem volunteered to help Cat and Amity prepare Gift Baskets and bidding envelopes
- Jayne and Rem working on Society information table and display items including shoes, castanets, fans, mantons, dresses, and batas

3. Changes to Board Structure

- Rather than monthly meetings, there will be 4 scheduled meetings per year with more added as needed – this motion was passed at AGM held prior to this meeting.

MOTION: Emily put forth a motion to accept the 'Changes to Board Structure' as outlined by Cat in her document submitted to the Board in February which will focus more on strategic planning, applying for operational grants, safety plan, terms of reference for Board members to understand their responsibility, etc. Seconded by Trudie. All in favour. Motion passed.

- Subcommittee including Cat and Emily will work on preliminary needs assessment to be shared with the Board. Other Board members interested in being on subcommittee should contact Cat.

(Note: Rem left the meeting at 3:30 pm)

4. Treasurer/Bookkeeper Position

- Finding a new Treasurer/Bookkeeper is a priority – Cat is actively working on it – message her with any ideas – this is a volunteer position.

5. Other business/discussion Items – Student Scholarship

- Question raised whether we should offer a Student Scholarship for 2023.
- Determined we should continue to offer the Scholarship as it shows a willingness to reach out into the community which is an important component in grant applications.
- Amity volunteered to send out reminder to flamenco students letting them know becoming a Society member is a requirement and application deadline is May 1.

ACTION: Jayne to send out reminder to membership about Scholarship deadline of May 1.

Reports

Financial – Kat reports:

- Cheque from the City just arrived
- Paid another installment to Zoey
- Payment installment to Amity due soon
- Hermann's finally deposited the cheque in February even though it was stale-dated
- Changing banks from TD to CIBC – there has been issues with TD Bank losing records of signing authorities – Cat researched best alternative – CIBC does not charge fees if minimum balance is \$5000 and does not charge for e-transfers – meeting with CIBC March 17

Grants

- The BC Arts Council Project Grant: Community Arts Festivals completed by Zoey has been submitted.

Membership

- Jayne reports membership numbers are unchanged from last meeting.

Facebook & Webpage

- Amity reports: Facebook 'likes' = 557
- Facebook promotion focused on call for emerging artists and Langham fundraiser
- Society Website – posted for International Women's Day and posted in memory of Carlos Saura who passed away recently
- Did some maintenance on social media feed as it was not working properly – discovered our Twitter account had been inactive for a couple of years – is now posting on Twitter
- Posted the Langham fundraiser on both the Festival and Society websites
- Previously posted the AGM on the Society website
- Has been updating the 'Upcoming Events' page – receives very few submissions – questioned whether recently posted 'workshop' was an issue – not an issue as shows we're involved with the greater community of artists

Meeting Adjourned: 3:50 pm