

January 10, 2020 AGM Minutes

Board Attendance: Landon, Avianna, Ayesha, Kristi, Erin, Tea, Andy

Staff Attendance: James and Jennifer

Member Attendance: 12 people

JAN 10 2022 AGM AGENDA

SUMMARY

1. Call to Order – Kristi
 - Landon put agenda in the chat along with previous AGM minutes
2. Establish Quorum - Kristi
3. Welcome – Welcome and treaty acknowledgment from Kristi
 - James went over the protocol for how to make motions and explained that he will be monitoring the chat etc.
4. Approval of Agenda – Kristi made a motion to accept the agenda. Jenn shared screened the agenda. Kelly Jo Burke moved to accept the agenda and amendment, Gordon Portman seconded. All in favour.
 - Amendment: we won't we electing board member positions during the AGM, this is done during the meeting after AGM with the board
 - Amendment: Kristi will be delivering Kasey's report
5. Approval of Minutes from previous AGM
 - Amendment from our bookkeeper to add to the minutes that adds the name of the accounting firm we're now using
 - Kelly Jo Burke made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Graham seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.
6. Approval of Financial statements/Treasurer Report/Auditor Report – Landon
 - Financial documents posted in the chat for members to look that gives details to our new accountants
 - The document shared is a draft as we are waiting until conclusion of special committee report.
 - 2019-2020 year ended with a surplus from cut programming due to COVID-19. Surplus of \$20,000.
 - In 2020-2021 year, we are operating on a deficit (\$11,000) as programming restarts and we begin to branch out with re-operating dramaturgy services
 - Other major point in costs: we hired three new staff members, which represents the largest expense (hired Kasey Acheynum as out provincial liaison, Jennifer Lyn Squires as creative administrator South) and gave James a raise.

- Biggest change is online subscriptions like Zoom membership went up, but office space budget went down because we are conducting everything online
- Tod moved to accept the financial statements; Kelly Jo seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Appointment of Auditor

- Motion to accept Hounjet Tastad Harpham for next year's auditor.
- Kelly Jo makes motion to accept Harpham as next year's auditor, Mary Blackstone seconds. All in favour. Motion carried.

Chair report from Kristi

"I have been a Board member since early 2020 and have served as Secretary and Head of Personel committee, and a member of the grant writing committee. As mentioned earlier I took over as Interim chair for Laura Helgert in September. Laura Helgert and Michael Peterson who also served on the Board for a few months moved to Ontario this fall. We would like to thank them both for their time and service that they gave to the SPC. We are also very excited to welcome Tea Gerbeza to the Board who joined us in December! Since the summer of 2020 SPC board and staff have been working towards incorporating our 2020-2025 strategic plan as we work towards better supporting all levels of playmakers in our province.

We created 2 part time Staff positions to compliment the great work that James Avremenko has been doing and to help us reach different communities in the province. In the Spring of 2021 We hired Kasey Atcheynum as the Provincial Liason and Tyler Toppings as the Creative Admin South. Kasey has been working to help SPC provide services to underrepresented communities. Specifically she has been working on an exciting project with Black lives Matter YXE. More on that when we get to Kasey's report.

Tyler worked with the organization helping to begin an online Script database from all of the Saskatchewan playwrights that have worked with SPC so that we can get their work out to producing companies across the province and country. Tyler also worked with James on the Tic Toc Ten Festival in Regina. Tyler left SPC in the summer of 2021 and we would like to extend our appreciation to him for his work.

Jennifer Lyn Squires began a three month part time contract with us in Sept. She took over the Creative Admin South Position in December and has been a great help to James with the website and script database.

James Avremenko our Creative and Operations Director has been integral to the organization and to getting us off of Concerned Status with SK Arts. So yes you heard that right--we are NO LONGER ON CONCERNED STATUS! Ok back to James--he has been busy working with the Write like You Mean It participants and on some exciting

new partnerships which I will let him fill you in on shortly. James has recently moved to BC but the Board has asked him to stay on in some capacity for the next year so that he can transition other staff members into the work that he has been doing as he has been the lead on all our operations for the last two years.

As we all know the past few years of the pandemic have been hard on non-profit companies and their staff. The SPC Board and Staff have been working hard to get a more secure foundation for this organization so we are grateful for the opportunity to gently transition the staff and the staffing model into a stronger unit.

I am very grateful to the Staff who have all worked hard to move the organization in a more positive direction. I am also very grateful for the Board Members- past ones who cared deeply for SPC and helped to keep things running over the years and the current one- our board is very engaged and have a lot of great ideas for the organization. I wish things could move faster to achieving them all but you know, covid, and restrictions, and all that. But in the great words of Elton John, “we are still standing!”

Staff Reports

Creative Operations & Director James

- 7 direct scripts were worked on through the submission program
- 5 went to a workshop creating jobs for 17 actors, 4 directors, and 8 dramaturges

WLYMI/TicTocTen

- 3 new scripts from WLYMI
- a dozen applicants, 2 shortlisters from the program and all who submitted received some personal feedback on their submissions
- This program led into a direct partnership with 25th Street Theatre, which we hope will turn into “the spiritual successor” of Springfest this coming spring (week long festival at end of April or beginning of May). 4 of the scripts will have public readings and the winning scrip that 25th Street Theatre chose, will have a full production done at the festival. Some workshops will be put on by SATP. We do have a plan should we need to go digital.
- We partnered with the TicTocTen festival this year and we dramaturged all ten scripts that were submitted.
- We have also partnered with the Saskatchewan Drama Association to pad out our membership numbers. Landon will explain more about this partnership in his report later on.
- New development: verbatim theatre pieces with high school students this year

Creative Administrator South-Jennifer Lyn Squires

- Since September we have netted 21 new followers over our social media platforms

- We haven't gotten out as many newsletters as Jenn thought, but Jenn hopes to get more out next year with updates like interviews and other content that folks would be more engaged with
- All scripts in possession of SPC and Jenn is putting together casting notes and synopses to keep track of all of them and their productions, etc.
- Outreach—Jennifer wants to reach out to smaller theatre groups across the province to see if they'd like to be SPC members

Provincial Liaison- Kasey Acheynum

Kristi read Kasey's report:

- The main project that Kasey has been focusing on is the creation of a IBPOC literary Artists in Communities – Project in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This development of this project was in partnership with BLM YXE and Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre and funded by the SK Arts Artists in Communities – Development.
- With the help of Saskatchewan Arts Board grant; BLM YXE, and Kasey, were able to conduct research to assess the creative literary community needs of IBPOC and Black diaspora by conducting research analysis in efforts to develop a plan for a longer-term project and residency.
- Kasey and her partners created a call for participants to partake in a focus group. And through this focus group were able to ask a series of ten thoughtfully curated questions. Much of our feedback highlighted the lack of safe space for Black diaspora literary art voices that were being run by IBPOC Artists.
- The next phase of our project will be writing a project grant to create a trial run of a IBPOC literary arts Artists in Communities – Project.

Committee Reports

Personnel

- Kristi says that she covered her report in her chair report.

Dramaturgical Committee - Avianna

- Over the last year, SPC has supported the development of 7 pieces through the dramaturgical committee
- The level of support has ranged from feedback on scripts to supporting full workshop (notably show with On Cue)

Diversity and Inclusion Committee - Avianna

- Formed in Spring of 2021 in response to goal setting done in 2020 during a Strategic Planning session to make the SPC more inclusive and diverse. These goals are to be more accessible and more welcoming to minority communities.
- Serves as a check in point of the direction and action of SPC in general to involve more people and in the types of partnerships we do. In the next year, we're working on some midterm goals, specifically developing dramaturgical resources for artists working in languages other than English.

Engagement committee – Landon

- Work with Jen and James to develop social media presence

- Looking to build a program for long term support for new work
- Two meetings with members about pursuing publishing and what support we offer for the long-term health of work
 - Happy to have Tea on the board to use her knowledge of publishing to help do this since Tea has a lot of knowledge about publishing
- Partnership with On Cue
 - Provide support for locally offered pre-production dramaturgy for a season of new work
 - Production was *The Weavers*, dramaturged by Mary Blackstone
- New partnership with the SDA as a member organization
 - Most consistent producer of new work in Saskatchewan. With reach all across the province, including dedicated support for schools in the northern most parts of the province. About 15 senior students each year go on to study/work in theatre professionally. About 10% of the work at regional festivals is new works or adaptations. That amount is closer to 20% at provincials
 - Added just over 2300 members to the organization
 - Provide playwriting and dramaturgical support to SDA members
 - Presented a five-part video series on the basics of playwriting in March 2021
 - Made arrangements to present an award at SDA Provincial Festival (to an original work)
 - Secured a \$4000 Sponsorship to go towards Springfest 2022
- Programming for membership
 - Patchwork Project (specifically made for emerging playwrights and underrepresented playwrights, which will involve hiring an outside writer to provide a story and this will be distributed to the playwrights to work from and under a supervising professional dramaturg will result a finished piece for performance at the end)
 - Potluck Project (based in partnership with BLM YXE—workshops about racial sensitivity and anti-racist work, which will then become story monologues written by members who take those courses and this will result in a full script piece)
 - WLYMI
 - New iteration of Springfest
 - Goals: new membership and new works

Approve amendments and additions to bylaws

- We do not have anything for this year's AGM, but we do want to give the membership a heads up that during this upcoming year the Board will be making efforts to distill the language in the bylaws to make the document more diverse and inclusive for future board members. So, we will be presenting that for approval at next year's AGM.

Call for nomination for the board and/or receive the report of the nominating committee

Nominations

- Keep Kristi and Andy on the board and add Erin to the board
- Kelly Jo motion to move Graham seconded. All in favour

New Business

- Merch: Tea created a design using titles of the plays workshopped this year and Landon put them on t-shirts, sweaters, etc., which Landon posted in the chat. Avianna reworked our old logo and Landon put images of these on items like pouches for members to see.
- With the new iteration Springfest, we are looking for volunteers to help out and we welcome you
- Avianna asks for ideas for sponsorships and if so to point them our way
- Landon invites membership to be on board committees without being on the board

Meeting adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.