

River Campus Board of Managers Minutes

December 4, 2020

12.30 River Campus Seminary Conference Room

Attendees: Rhonda Weller-Stilson, Scott Meyer, Sophia Han, Trudy Lee, Brad Sheriff (standing in for Mike Godard)

Absent: Danielle Poyner

Minutes from September 4, to 2020; Scott made a motion to approve minutes; Sophia seconded. All approved.

Agenda

- New Members – Scott explained the guidelines of the committee to our new members.
- Bob Cerchio's retirement – he came to university and was part of the planning process of River Campus. He retired on November 30th. We will not be replacing him. His duties have been distributed among Ellen Farrow, Nikki Evans, and Jeff Luetkenhaus. Rhonda is working with Chris Martin to change the wording of the by-laws. Scott suggested reviewing amendments to the document that include Rhonda's new title etc. Chris can help us write a memo that the city can approve and then attach to the original document.
- **Protect the Nest protocols at the River Campus** – the city has been impressed with university protocols during the COVID crisis. And Rhonda has not seen any issues with transmission of the virus among our students. She credits strict protocols and Facilities Management excellent work that have included the installation of HEPA filters and sanitation stations. The university is also working on installing water bottle refilling stations. They are in short supply; however the Purchasing department is working on fulfilling requests. The students have been amazing to wear their masks in the parking lots and have been policing each other.
- **Productions held in the fall** – brochure changes have been made due to the pandemic. Several vocal music recitals had to be cancelled due to health concerns. And some dates were moved to accommodate the amended academic calendar. Rhonda mentioned that some positive opportunities have presented themselves because of the pandemic. Some of which include outstanding virtual visiting artists.
- **Spring plans and adjustments**- the biggest change will be performing Cinderella which has been moved to next spring. Steven Schwartz is involved with the Theatre and Dance department. Julius Caesar will be performed instead of the Miracle Worker. The St Louis Symphony will not be able to perform this year. Many events will be held virtually including the Faultline Film Festival. Rhonda thanked Trudy Lee and the Foundation for their work with our sponsors.
- **River Campus Summer Arts Festival and other summer plans** – we are planning to have pared down summer camps and the festival will be mostly outdoors to ensure safe social distancing. The Theatre and Dance Conservatory will be hosting the first annual Lanford Wilson, New American Play Festival. There are currently 200 entries. And Rhonda mentioned, we will be hosting Tunes at Twilight this summer due to construction at the current location.
- **Art Building update** – The project is moving forward, and Scott Blank has been a great sponsor to work with. The internal building has been demolished in preparation of new construction and the city is focusing on incentives and timelines that are due in February. They are anxious to be a part of the project. The current timeline is for painting and ceramics studios to be open by Fall of 2021. It was noted that phase two of the project will not begin right away. University Advancement officers, Angie Wilson and Taylor Glueck are working on private funding opportunities among the community. There was also discussion related to better sidewalks and lighting in that part of town and the city will assess once phase one is complete.

Discussion

The pilot program introduction at the airport went well.