

River Campus Board of Managers Minutes

March 11, 2016

Noon in River Campus Seminary Conference Room

Attendees: Rhonda Weller-Stilson, Bob Cerchio, Bill Holland, Karl Kunkel, Dennis Vollink and Scott Meyer

Absent: Victoria Rust

Minutes from September: Scott Meyer made a motion to approve minutes and Bill Holland seconded; motion approved.

Dennis Vollink nominated to be acting chair. Meeting called to order and minutes were reviewed.

1. Karl Kunkel was introduced and the Board explained its' mission to both the university and community. Scott Meyer welcomed as new voting member.
2. Summer Festival Sponsor updates - all sponsors from last year have come back in addition to several new ones that include an undisclosed financial donor contributing \$1,000; current budget for the festival is \$90,000. More community groups are being integrated beginning with partnerships with underserved constituents. In this effort, students are canvassing local churches etc. with materials regarding the event.
3. Summer productions and calendar – We are producing three shows this summer including *Always Patsy Cline*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Honk Jr.* There will be two free performances of *Honk Jr.* the day of the festival. A show produced by kids for kids. These productions will take place in the Bedell to accommodate large audiences. In addition, there will be a launch party June 15th, the night of the final dress rehearsal for *Always Patsy Cline*. The party will be in the Atrium where sponsors will be recognized. Also new this year - *Steel Magnolias* and *Always Patsy Cline* will be offered in Rep, providing students the opportunity to experience this type of run. This also allows audiences multiple chances to see a production. Hiring is almost complete with students being recruited from a variety of places such as Illinois, Detroit and California. There was discussion related to the City of Cape and its relationship with the River Campus. Scott talked about working with local media to promote and discuss the opportunities being made available to the community. In addition, Dennis mentioned the need for a large marketing campaign approximately one week before the event utilizing billboards.
4. 10th Season planning – Bob discussed possibilities of a Comic Book Show, *ComiCon*, the *Big River* revival and ways that we will be working to bring the number ten into the season since this is the tenth season. He noted that each area is planning at least one major event to mark the occasion. Theatre/Dance will be producing *Chorus Line* and symphonies line up will include a Vincentian Celebration that Jerry Ford has been instrumental in planning. The group made mention of all his support and contributions to the River Campus. Also mentioned, a chamber music company that is being added to the line up. *Academy of St Martin in the Field* will be included with the Symphony Series to help bring up their attendance numbers.
5. Recruiting Events and Outcomes – This has been a terrific recruiting season with a lot of off-campus events, many auditions and several in-house recruiting opportunities. The new River Campus dorms were talked about and Rhonda explained the connectedness that comes with living here; the dorms aren't quite full but the university is breaking even. And there was discussion about the ultimate goal for the school that is to have around 550-600 in attendance. Camp brochures were passed out and there was discussion related to camps happening this summer that involve students from 7th thru 12th grade. The opportunities extend to students who don't necessarily have a lot of hands-on experience and there will be multiple overnight camps occurring simultaneously to encourage community; these will coincide with the Summer Arts Festival to give everyone a feeling of inclusiveness. In addition, there will be a number of day camps offered through the summer months ensuring opportunities for everyone.

6. Remaining Season Events - SE Music Festival will be held next week on campus. This is a three-day event that brings hundreds of students and involves all the facilities. Next up is the comedy, *Sister's Easter Catechism* just before Easter. April is very busy and will include: *Sister of 121st Street*, *Spring into Dance* and *Imaginary Invalid* all produced by Theatre/Dance. The Moscow Ballet will be performing a full-length production and the Symphony will perform *Lux Aeterna*. The Annual Art Juried Show will be held and allows the opportunity to purchase artwork. *Bullets over Broadway* is the last touring show of the season. Also of note, a special production of *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* is being finalized.

7. Touring Season for the new year – One of the strongest and most diverse

- a. *Riders in the Sky* – Cowboy music
- b. Shanghai Acrobats
- c. *Mama Mia*
- d. Ten Tenors
- e. *Bridges of Madison County*
- f. Vienna Boys Choir
- g. *Pipen*
- h. *Romeo and Juliet* and *Carmen*
- i. Cirque Mechanics

There was discussion related to ticket pricing and larger audiences that may help lower the overall cost of tickets. Bob is trying to find ways to enlarge the series but not turn people away because of the cost. They are currently working on a buy one get one free season ticket.

Overall operations of the River Campus was talked about and Bob indicated that everything was running smoothly even with the addition of the Music Academy.

Dennis Vollink made a motion to adjourn, Rhonda Weller-Stilson seconded - meeting was adjourned.

Additional Notes: Nicolette Breenan at City is point of contact for social medial publications.

Scott asked that we send him materials that he can help distribute