

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center Corporation was held in the Swyer Theatre on Thursday, May 20, 2019 at 12 noon

**PRESENT:**

Michael Avella

Susan Cleary

Tony Esposito

Vincent McArdle

Joyce Schenker

Jim Sullivan

Joseph Rabito: VIA TELEPHONE

STAFF: Peter Lesser

**Chairman's Report:** Tony Esposito called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes of the March 2019 meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Esposito asked for information regarding the New York Living Legacy Pete Seeger Centennial Concert and related activities and asked that Peter Lesser provide this as part of his executive director's report.

**Executive Directors Report:** Mr. Lesser explained that the NY Living Legacy Project included an outreach component which toured to eight locations throughout the Capital Region in the beginning of May. The culmination of the initiative was planned with a multi-artist concert on May 23. After some discussion it was generally agreed that the project offered an effective way for The Egg to elevate its presence in the community and to build audiences for performances.

Mr. Lesser summarized the printed report detailing activities and events that had taken place since the last board meeting noting that it was the center's most active period of public programming.

June was expected to be filled with the annual slate of dance recitals and much lighter than usual summer activity was expected. He noted that that the roof project had resumed and would therefore prohibit any outdoor concerts.

**Financial Report:** Peter Lesser summarized the April 2019 profit and loss statement noting that the modest surplus would serve as to help fund operations during the summer months when performance and rental income was expected to be limited. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report as submitted. All in attendance voted in favor.

Mr. Lesser also noted that the audit was expected to begin on May 28.

Tony Esposito asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and to go into executive session.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center Corporation was held in the Swyer Theatre on Thursday, September 19 at 12 noon

**PRESENT:**

Michael Avella

William Burgess

Susan Cleary

Tony Esposito

Vincent McArdle

Joyce Shenker, Jim Sullivan: VIA TELEPHONE

STAFF: Peter Lesser, Matthew Moross

**Chairman's Report:** Tony Esposito called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes of the May 2019 meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Peter Lesser summarized the 2018-19 Audit Report noting that no issues had surfaced in the auditor's review of the 2018-19 fiscal year. He reported that due to a change in regulations, a larger amount of revenue was required to support anticipated post-employment benefits. Therefore, while the Center had an operating surplus in the 2018-19 year, a loss continues to be attributed to insufficient funds to cover the required anticipated post-employment benefit. It was clarified that this was not affecting cash flow or operations and the cash surplus continued to be invested in treasury bills.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the audit report as submitted. All in attendance voted in favor.

Matthew Moross summarized the current profit and loss statement noting that income was and expenses were significantly higher due to the unexpected presentation of the two concerts by Harry Connick, Jr. in August which had been postponed due to illness in 2015.

**Executive Directors Report:** Peter Lesser summarized the printed report detailing activities and events that had taken place since the last board meeting noting that summer activity had been a bit lighter than in previous years. However, the annual slate of dance recitals and the three-week residency by the Ajkun Ballet Theatre helped to keep the stages and studios relatively busy.

He noted that the roof replacement project was scheduled to be completed by November. However, the project to update lighting, seating and other facility improvements was still pending.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center Corporation was held in the Swyer Theatre on Thursday, November 21 at 12 noon.

**PRESENT:**

Susan Cleary

Tony Esposito

James Malatras

Vincent McArdle

Jim Sullivan

Michael Cassidy, Michael Avella: VIA TELEPHONE

STAFF: Peter Lesser, Matthew Moross

**Chairman's Report:** Tony Esposito called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes of the September 2019 meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Esposito introduced and welcomed Jim Malatras to the board of directors. Dr. Malatras is the President of Empire State College and was appointed to the board by Governor Cuomo.

**Financial Report:** Matthew Moross summarized the current profit and loss statement noting that income and expenses were significantly higher due to the unexpected presentation of the two concerts by Harry Connick, Jr. in August as reported in September.

**Executive Directors Report:** Peter Lesser summarized the printed report detailing activities and events that had taken place since the last board meeting pointing out that rentals by outside concert promoters had resumed after a prolonged dry spell over the summer. He noted that performances presented by The Egg were expected to decrease over the winter months. This was attributed to a combination of fewer touring opportunities and a continued increase in regional venues that are presenting artists who have typically performed at The Egg in past seasons. Staff will continue to explore ways that the Center can position its programming to remain a leader in the region's cultural landscape.

He noted that the roof replacement was completed and the project to update lighting, seating and other facility improvements was still pending.

Mr. Lesser reported that the Center continues its work in administering activities by the statewide NYS Performing Arts Presenters Network, facilitating a series of five regional meetings in early November.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center Corporation was held in the Swyer Theatre on Thursday, January 16 at 12 noon.

**PRESENT:**

Bradley Allen

Michael Avella

Susan Cleary

Tony Esposito

Vincent McArdle

Maston Sansom

Jim Sullivan

James Malatras, Joyce Shenker: VIA TELEPHONE

STAFF: Peter Lesser, Matthew Moross

**Chairman's Report:** Tony Esposito called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes of the November 2019 meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Esposito reported that board member Michael Cassidy, an appointee of Albany County, had resigned from his position.

**Financial Report:** Matthew Moross summarized the current profit and loss statement noting that income and expenses were basically on track to complete the fiscal year with sufficient income to cover expenses.

Mr. Esposito reported that the Finance Committee would meet to develop a budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

**Executive Directors Report:** Peter Lesser summarized the printed report detailing activities and events that had taken place since the last board meeting. Mr. Esposito commented on the recent article in the Albany Times Union regarding the controversial booking of Louis C.K. scheduled for March 10. It was generally agreed that the Center's position of allowing rental organizations to present events of their choosing provided that they do not pose a threat to safety or security should be retained. Vin McArdle commented that the article was effective in explaining the Center's policy.

Maston Sansom asked about the possibility of offering alcoholic beverages in addition to the selection of wine and beer currently offered to increase concession income. Mr. Lesser noted that to do so would entail concession contractor the Old Daley Inn purchasing a different liquor license and added insurance which may not prove cost effective. It was generally agreed not to expand the alcoholic beverage selection. The possibility of allowing food and drinks into the theatre was also discussed. It was generally agreed that to preserve the quiet listening environment and focus on performance, that the policy of keeping refreshments out of the theatres – except for bottled water – would be retained.

Mr. Lesser reported that the Center continues its work in administering activities by the statewide NYS Performing Arts Presenters Network, facilitating a meeting in New York in early January.

Mr. Esposito suggested that it may only be necessary for the board to meet four times per year. After discussing, it was mutually agreed that the five meetings per year would be retained.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.