

Austin Theatre Booster Club Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023

Michelle calls the Zoom meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Attendees:

1. Michelle Gentry, President
2. Joy Guercio, Treasurer
3. Melissa Lema, Secretary
4. Erin Eder
5. Harsa Rutherford
6. Mar Towle
7. Michele Vandiver
8. Dana Keen
9. Faraz Khan
10. Katie Schwarz, Vice President
11. Sue
12. Someone on a Samsung
13. Lily Trevino
14. Sue Lew
15. Paula Sanchez
16. Rachel Gray
17. Wendy & Vince
18. Caleb
19. Kai Tinnin

Welcome:

Michelle introduced herself and welcomed the group and had the other officers introduce themselves as well. Then thanked all the parents who joined the meeting. And then read the minutes from the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Joy decided to keep the August spreadsheet simple. The money coming in was for student t-shirts and show fees. Also, a \$1,200 donation was made for ComedySportz.

Expenses for August were: \$2534.66 for show costs, \$560 for headshots (which will cover both shows' headshots), \$1477 for two different T-shirts that are for the troupe and for the upcoming show, and \$129 in troupe fees.

The September balance is \$14,722.85 and money is starting to come in for Thespian Festival (19 students are attending this year which is up from 16 last year.) Ad money is coming in as well. HR has been working hard to get money into the account by planning Spirit Nights and getting ads for the playbill. Ticket sales are going well for the show. Erin has been working on purchasing what was needed for the show through Amazon.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

1. Vote in the new Vice President. Katy Johnson was nominated by Joy and Melissa seconded. A vote was called and Katy was voted in unanimously.
2. Parent t-shirts/decals: Michelle Gentry asked about t-shirts and decals for parents so that we can support our thespians. Joy said there were extra troupe shirts available for purchase and that more could be ordered. Michele Vandiver said she thought there were some older decals that didn't have dates on them that could be sold to parents. Eder said that Oz, one of the students, also has several designs that could be made into decals.
3. Supplies for the upcoming show. A question was raised about providing the students with snacks for rehearsals. HR requested granola bars and protein type bars give more energy, rather than chips. Students are to bring their own water and water bottles can be donated for tech week.
4. Meals on Saturday rehearsals/concessions: HR will work with Joy on sign-up genius so that parents can donate candy, etc. for concessions as well as help with food for long Saturday rehearsals and the Saturday of the show. Hr said that Ruthies, a restaurant down the street, volunteered to do free delivery if we wanted to purchase catering from them.

Directors Update:

Eder shared that the Monday - Thursday rehearsals are in full swing. Saturday rehearsals are coming and food will need to be figured out for the cast/crew. She also requested box office help from parents. Thespian payments are coming in.

HR shared that the students are promoting the Spirit nights. We need to keep promoting. The first Spirit night is at Lamonte's at the end of this month. Then we have Chipotle on Oct. 18 (which is when the Spring show cast list comes out) from 5-9pm and Cane's on Nov. 1 (which is near the Thespian Festival) from 5-10pm. Future Spirit nights may happen at WhataBurger and Piada. HR has ads and flyers for each of these events that can be used to promote. Unfortunately, promotion cannot happen in front of the restaurants.

Hr also talked about FanGram and Shout-outs and described something other schools do for their cast and crew that includes a goodie bag with their picture attached that people can donate a small amount of money and place a note inside the bag. The students receive their bag after the show is over on closing night, or the next day. Joy said that we can make prints using their headshots for this. (Eder added that parents can get copies of their student's pictures if they provide a USB.)

ComedySportz is up and going. Students need to pay \$40 in fees. These fees need to be paid by Friday because there is an event on Saturday. There is one spot left and it only requires one to two Fridays a month of time.

Eder asked the Booster Club to consider giving partial/full financial assistance to students who may need it for the Thespian Festival in Dallas in November.

Student Line Update

Kai Tinnin, President, had to leave the meeting but left a message that there was nothing to share at this time.

Christian Leam, President of the Improv Club, shared that he would be getting the link to Izzy and Tessa tonight so that students could start paying the \$40 fee that is due by Friday.

Fundraising

Mr. Towle asked if there are going to be any promotions for patrons this year. There hasn't been anyone new in the last few years since Covid. (Mr. Towle has been the only one.) The website has information about becoming a patron/sponsor and with each level there are some perks, such as names in the program, an ad in the program, etc.

Questions/Comments

1. The decision was made to change the next meeting to **Sept. 27** instead of Oct. 4 (which is too close to opening night). That date change needs to be made on the website as well.
2. Mr. Towle asked the directors if they had received the edited pictures from last year and the directors said yes and were very grateful for them.
3. A question about adding sponsors to the program for this show. Michele Vandiver has a soft deadline of this Friday and a hard stop on Monday, Sept. 11. There is also a missing ad for HR's dentist. Ruthies has a ½ page ad. The travel agency also has a ½ page ad. Michele needs a Google link to the photos and Eder will work on getting those shared.
4. A question was asked about Cast Wrap parties. The troupe usually goes to WhataBurger after opening night and one of the Officer Line usually hosts the cast part after closing night.

Michelle Gentry motions to end the meeting and Joy seconds it.