

Streetcar Company  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2022

**Location: Becky Fredette's House**

**Call to Order:** 6:08pm

**Attendance:** Peter Ayer, Brendan Berube, Ray Feola, Oriana Filiat, Becky Fredette, Becky Guyer, Carey Hough, Samm Johnson, David Nelson

**President Address:**

- Welcome - Welcome new board members. Meeting structure - David is chairman and his responsibility is to run meetings. There's a lot he does and what he doesn't do. Robert's Rules overview. Basic courtesy - don't talk over each other, be respectful etc. Would like meetings to be informal and an open dialogue among members and wants everyone to share opinions. Officer opinions are not stronger than board representative opinions. Vote needs to be respected even if it doesn't go your way. Don't let emotions get the best of you and quit.
- Board of Directors purpose: The Board is elected by the membership to be good representatives of them - but we will not poll the membership on everything. They have trusted us to choose what is best for them and the company. We must speak with one voice.
- Discussions and voting - We want to discuss things in person at a meeting. Meetings will be monthly. Urgent communication may need to happen - that may fall to Facebook messenger or email, but in person is always the preferred option.
- Communications - Social Media needs to be positive, fun, enjoyable to promote our shows and company. We don't want to discourage communication but funnel them to email.
- Positive Change - we have many new members who want to make positive change. We see that and we appreciate it. We are human, and things aren't perfect. There's holes and tidying up that need to be done. We want to keep efforts and meetings in a positive direction and we don't want all efforts to be bylaws and procedure. We need to do lots of things: activities, finding new members, becoming a community. We don't want to get caught in the weeds fixing the problems.
  - Oriana: Positive communication and respect and function as a team not necessarily getting caught up in bylaws. Everyone agrees that it's ok to disagree but do it with respect. Oriana - thinks everyone around the table the goal is to better the company and the big picture. Making art not money.
- Attendance requirements: We will have regularly scheduled meetings. If you are on Board you are expected to make Streetcar a priority. Once a month is not too much to ask. You don't need to be at every meeting, but let us know ahead of time and do your best to make all meetings. There is a policy in the bylaws about attendance. Zoom/Phone is ok as long as there is a quorum of 5 in person. Realize if you are missing a meeting you are not going to be able to participate in discussion and vote. Same goes for urgent decisions on Facebook Messenger/Email. We want to avoid online decisions as much as possible. No one is on call 24/7 for Streetcar.



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**Intros:**

- **Oriana Filiault** - Ray's wife. Wanted to do theater when younger but never got into it. A co-worker from DCYF introduced her to community theater (Mystery of Edwin Drood). Got pulled in and loved it and couldn't stop. Streetcar Company is the basis of their family - met doing show, kids are doing shows. It's a passion, and keeps her sane.
- **Ray Feola** - Streetcar since 2008/09. Enjoys shows, camaraderie, putting things together and seeing it work out. Likes being on board and sharing opinions and being part of something that supports a bigger picture.
- **Becky Guyer** - Five decades, always behind stage. Doesn't do on stage - lost a bet once had to go onstage but got kicked off for giggling. Loves directing and costumes. Been on the board off and on for a long time.
- **Samm Johnson** - 21. Baby of the group. Second term on board. Joined board because didn't like show ideas that were being thrown around. Wants fresh and new ideas for shows. Wants more people, and talent. Wants variety.
- **David Nelson** - Pizzaholic. First show in 1981 - The Music Man Streetcar Company. Did others. Did drama in high school. Stopped doing it, and picked it back up when came back to the Lakes Region. Family was heavily involved in Streetcar for many years. Got back involved with A Christmas Story. Got involved with Board when there was a call for needing new members. Considers his involvement a service.
- **Carey Hough** - Joined Streetcar this past fall in "All Together Now" after taking a 21 year hiatus from theatre. Former musical theater major - finds unbridled joy helping out and being a part of the theatre community and has found some of the best people and friends here at Streetcar.
- **Becky Fredette** - Started theater because of son. Theater always fascinated her. Helped make costumes for Beauty and the Beast. Family got involved. Was fun to do shows together. Does it because it's fun not because we need to make the most money. It can sometimes be hard because of Board issues. Wants to see Streetcar thrive.
- **Peter Ayer** - Oldest of group third time on board. Former president. In 8 plays in one year. Doesn't sing and doesn't dance. Started as a child.
- **Brendan Berube** - Got acting bug in 6th grade. Did theater through high school. Saw audition notice for "Wait Until Dark" - got dream role. Had mixed experience with other Streetcar auditions. Auditioned for Macbeth and got it. The company has become family.

**Position Info/Training:**

- Reviewed description in bylaws.
- David would like people to take over small tasks that may not be outlined in bylaws



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- Becky F stated that meetings need to be held in a public space going forward and open to the public.

**Bylaws:**

- Member/Officer terms were discussed
  - David and Brendan's terms end at the end of 2022.
  - Carey and Becky F will serve until the end of 2023
  - Becky G, Ray and Samm will serve one year terms ending in 2022
  - Oriana and Peter will serve two year terms ending in 2023
  - There was a question on the verbiage on number of board members and whether SKYT representatives make up the 9 members of the Board. It was discussed that the language in the bylaws wasn't updated. There can be up to 9 adult board members and 2 SKYT representatives.
  - We can add SKYT representatives at any time. In the past they haven't had much they can do on the board and they do not get a vote.
  - Oriana stated she was concerned that there may have been things going on in the past that weren't above board. She has heard rumors of mismanagement of funds and property in the past. She stated that she feels part of the way the bylaws were originally written was to allow for secrecy and asked if it made sense to review and audit them. Becky F stated the bylaws were rewritten to fix loopholes after Oriana originally left the board. David stated that the bylaws led to lots of negativity with a specific set of Streetcar members and their friends on Facebook. This led to the lack of posting on Facebook because the board got tired of the negativity that kept coming in. He added that the Board didn't respond because they didn't want to continue to add negativity. The bylaws had to become the focus because the Company was not following them. Becky G stated that the bylaws are a living document and we're here now to move onward and upward from the past.

**Facebook Policy:**

- Becky F stated that our current social media policy doesn't allow for anything besides show related posts.
- Brendan made a motion that we adopt a policy that we have open communication and posting on all social media accounts while following the Streetcar Company & SKYT Social Media Guidelines. Ray seconded the motion
  - **MOTION: Streetcar Company adopts a policy that we have open communication and posting on all social media accounts while following the Streetcar Company & SKYT Social Media Guidelines**
    - David asked for discussion, but there was none



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- **Unanimous vote: The motion passes**

**Conflict of Interest Policy:**

- All officers and board member representatives signed and turned in their Conflict of Interest attestations except for Becky G. Carey will reach out and collect that.

**Secretary Report:**

- David stated the meeting would normally start with this.
- Becky F stepped in to cover Secretary duties in the interim between the annual meeting and this meeting, but did not have a report to share.

**Treasurer Report:**

- David shared the prepared Profit and Loss Statement
- Samm asked about the bullet point about a “bouquet for a woman who fell”. David stated that an individual fell down some stairs and had some injuries after a performance of “All Together Now” in the fall. She is a long time supporter of Streetcar Company, and as a token of goodwill and get well wishes we sent her a bouquet.
- Oriana stated she has an old Streetcar Company debit card saved on her Amazon account that she was given to purchase materials for a performance. She asked who has cards currently. David stated that he and Raelyn Cottrell have cards.
- Oriana made a motion to retrieve the debit card from Raelyn. Samm seconded the motion.
  - **MOTION: Current debit card will be retrieved from Raelyn Cottrell**
    - David opened up discussion with him and Becky F saying that as she is the producer they felt she should have the card for purchases that may be necessary for the production. Oriana asked if it’s typical that the producer/production team has the debit card or do they normally submit expenses? David stated that, no, typically you would submit receipts and expense reports to the Treasurer but that makes the Treasurer’s job more difficult. Other theatre companies usually have a representative, who holds a card, available to tag along for purchases. Brendan stated he would be willing to sift through receipts rather than there ever be a question of impropriety in the finances. Samm stated that individual company members should not be using the card to buy things through Amazon that way the card isn’t saved and that all Amazon purchases should be made through an official Streetcar Amazon account.
    - **In favor: Samm, Oriana, Brendan, Peter**
    - **Opposed: Ray, Carey**
    - **Abstention: Becky F**
    - **With 4 in favor of the motion, the motion carries. David will request the debit card from Raelyn.**



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- Becky F stated that \$2000 of the current budget is from a grant from the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction and must be used for a SKYT show. It was her understanding we were using it for Lion King Jr.
- There was discussion of making sure Brendan would be able to access bank accounts and get a debit card. Becky F made a motion to have Brendan be a signer on the account. Samm seconded the motion.
  - **MOTION: To have Brendan Berube, Streetcar Company Treasurer, be a signer on all Streetcar Company financial accounts and to receive any appropriate debit cards**
    - There was no discussion
    - **Unanimous vote: The motion passes**
- Samm motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Oriana seconded the motion.
  - **MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report**
    - There was no discussion
    - **Unanimous vote: The motion passes.**

**Old Business:**

- 2022 Show Schedule
  - In November 2021 the Board approved the show schedule, but due to a number of factors it has already changed. "Brighton Beach Memoirs" has moved from November to the spring. "The Wizard of Oz" is now performing in April. SKYT's production of "Lion King Jr." and Streetcar's "Brighton Beach Memoirs" will begin production in April once Oz is done and will be performed in June. "The Great Steamboat Race and Musical Talent Contest" will begin production in June and be performed in August. "Passage Into Fear" will begin production in August/September and perform in late October near Halloween. Lastly in collaboration with SKYT, "A Wicked Christmas Carol" will begin production in October/November and be performed in December depending on the venue.
  - Oz is paid for
  - Brighton Beach Memoirs is \$350 to license
  - Lion King Jr. is paid for
  - Steamboat has no cost
  - Passage Into Fear is \$300
  - A Wicked Christmas Carol is \$600
  - Currently we can only post about Oz, Lion King Jr and Steamboat on social media as those are the only licenses we have secured.
  - Oriana stated that she thought SKYT performed in the summer normally. Brendan stated that because this year is Streetcar's 50th Anniversary, things got shuffled around a bit.
  - Tilton School - Becky F stated that she has been playing phone tag due to her schedule and suggests a new contact reach out to Kate Suanders the head of Tilton School. They want to work with us on their theatre department and there is a chance we can collaborate and use their facility. Some members did go on a site visit earlier but they



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haven't discussed the nitty gritty business but it is a nice facility. Becky G has discussed helping them with their costumes for "Little Shop of Horrors". David stated it has the possibility of being a good mutual relationship. Carey stated that it's a good idea for at least one person from the original meeting reach back out. David said he would be willing and Brendan added that he felt it would look best if, as President, David did that. David asked for Kate's contact info and Becky F said it's in the Streetcar email Becky F and Peter added that it really could be a great collaboration.

- Belknap Mill - The Board wanted to perform Brighton Beach Memoirs and other non-musical shows at the Belknap Mill. They got in touch with Karen Prior and told her All Together Now did very well there and could we line up another show. The Mill said no and they do not want Streetcar to have any more performances there. Carey offered to reach out to Karen if the Board wants as she has an existing professional relationship with her. The Belknap Mill wanted us to pay \$1000 for a year of shows, rehearsal space, and meetings when the space was available, but at the last minute took shows away in discussions. Carey wanted to bring to the Board's attention that the Mill is also a 501c3 and relies on the rental income to pay their significant bills. Becky F and David said they absolutely agree, but that the agreement was not what they expected the trade would be.

**New Business:**

- Mission Statement - it was discussed to bring ideas for an official mission statement to the next Board meeting. Becky F suggested reaching out to the membership for their ideas as well. Carey stated she will post to Facebook asking for the members to share their ideas.
- Directors and Officers Insurance - David will reach out to our insurance agent, HPM to see if our policy includes Directors and Officers Insurance
- Oz Tech Professionals
  - David stated there have been questions and concerns from company members about Becky G spending her own money on a professional tech production company.
  - Becky G stated that she did this because the producer hasn't done anything. This happened as a backfire from a spat she had. She stated she takes exception to the criticism as it was a generous gift. She had no knowledge of anyone lined up to do the production roles and she wasn't aware of what the producer was organizing. She stated that she just wants the show to be the best it can be as she plans on this being her last hurrah.
  - David stated that there were members that wanted to do the tech jobs, and the optics of a director putting up their own money - especially such a large amount - is cause for discussion as it is unprecedented.
  - Carey stated she had talked with the producer and had been told she could work tech crew on light or sound board. There were also other individuals that were interested as well. Carey spoke to the Purpose listed in the bylaws that states, "The object for which this Corporation is established is to provide live theatre productions for the cultural



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education, entertainment, and inspiration of the community; to encourage and develop the participation for amateurs in all phases of the theatrical arts; to provide a stimulus for participation by amateurs and original talent in acting, directing, producing, stagecraft and any and all phases of theatre”

- Becky G again stated that she took exception to this discussion and apologized because she had to leave to meet with a seamstress for some costumes for Oz. Becky G left.
- Discussion continued and it was mentioned that Becky G's financial contribution was very generous and that her gift of it was not without praise. It was asked if there were other tech/production jobs that interested members could help with. It was also asked if members could assist alongside the professional tech crew.
- Oriana asked if there was clarification for when the Board can or should step in on the production of a show. Becky F stated that we need to have clarification of what is expected of a Director and Producer and that guidelines need to be created because they are mentioned in the bylaws but not written in the bylaws.
- David said that there has been past complaints of the Board overstepping into show areas.
- Oriana asked if Becky F and David can reach out and speak with Becky G to mend and reestablish communication.
- Oz Update
  - The Director and Producer are not talking and it is causing some issues for the production.
  - David will ask the producer about whether participating members are paying production fees.
- SKYT Proposal
  - Raelyn Cottrell has submitted a proposal for newly released, “Broadway Junior Revue: Raise Your Voice” offered by MTI.
    - It's similar to “All Together Now” in that you can perform it as a concert, revue, or original musical
    - Raelyn proposes pushing Lion King Jr. to fall and performing this in the summer. She states that she has rehearsal space at Gilmanton Community Church and that the performance can be performed at Crystal Lake in Gilmanton.
    - David stated he felt a lot of kids would be interested.
    - Becky F asked what venues have been reached out to that haven't been available. David stated Laconia High School is unavailable.
    - Carey asked if we already paid royalties for Lion King Jr. and was told yes.
    - Carey stated after looking at the available songs, that kids wouldn't actually be interested in these songs/production as they are older shows that kids generally aren't familiar with. Samm agreed.
    - Brendan stated he doesn't think we should water down our show schedule since we are already doing so many shows.



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- Becky F stated that we have many shows that have been approved for 2 years and have been patiently waiting. She also stated that three of the approved shows would cost less than this one show.
- Brendan stated that while it may turn a profit, we want to be about quality not just making money.
- David stated he did not think this show has a time limit attached to it like All Together Now did.
- Samm motioned to approve the show but decline the proposed timeline. Oriana seconded the motion.
  - **MOTION: Streetcar Company approves production of “Broadway Junior Revue: Raise Your Voice” but not the proposed timeline.**
  - It was discussed that Raelyn should propose a new timeline for the 2023 season. Oriana asked if having a SKYT show precludes having a Streetcar show at the same time. Becky F stated that you’re splitting your resources by doing that. Oriana restated that Raelyn should be encouraged to re-propose the show at the next pitch night.
  - **Unanimous vote: The motion passes.**
- Carey mentioned that she thinks the Board should consider looking into expanding offerings for our membership including workshops, performance opportunities/dinner show. Oriana added that we should consider offering a camp. David also mentioned that he’d like to offer a SKYT information night for parents, and kids could be in another space doing performance skills or theatre games. Oriana also added that we should look into local community days.
- Oriana wanted to note that she is SUPER EXCITED AF for what Streetcar has coming up.
- Becky F restated that we need to find a public space for the next meeting. It was discussed to see if Laconia Congregational has space free for us.
- The board agreed that the second Tuesday of every month would work for everyone to meet. The next meeting will be Tuesday April 12th with location and time TBD. Carey will post on Facebook and website.

**Adjournment:**

- Samm motioned to adjourn and Peter seconded the motion
  - **MOTION: Adjourn the meeting**
  - **Unanimous vote: The motion passes**
- **The meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 12th, 2022 (location and time TBD)**

Respectfully submitted,



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Carey Hough  
Secretary

