

Meeting Minutes – Citi Performing Arts Meeting

Meeting began promptly at 6:30pm. Betty introduced Joe Donleavy and gave a big thank you to Gourmet Caterers for the delicious food and beverages provided throughout the evening.

Joe D: We've got a jammed packed season at the Shubert and the Wang - in fact, the Wang is celebrating it's 90th anniversary. To share with you more about our exciting season ahead, I'd like to ask Joe Spaulding, our CEO to come to the podium.

Joe Spaulding approached the podium and immediately commented on the fact that the concierge world is so important and requires folks to be outspoken and take initiative, yet everyone is sitting in the back of the room!?! Joe was delighted to let us know that we were for the first ever to view the newly laid grand stand carpet -- in preparation for the upcoming 90th anniversary of the Center. Mr. Spaulding conducted the first wedding at the Citi Center last Saturday. What a great place for the perfect love story...he referenced the show "Rent" which includes 5260 minutes all about love!

Joe went on to say how thrilled he was to be here and thanks to Joe D for setting this all up for us to be together tonight!

The Wang Center's 90th Anniversary Celebration begins on October 16 when all final renovations will be complete. (Joe Spaulding's 29th year at the Center). First Open House is planned that day from 2-5pm. Some exhibits will include "the Wall" where visitors can see photos of their favorite actors - showcasing shows and features of the last 90 years.

28 years ago, the Citi Center spent \$10 million dollars to restore the building as a National Historic Landmark. Joe tells us, " While going through the restoration, we received a call from an avid fan who told us that we had missed the "niche" behind the wall in the mezzanine lobby, She said "my husband proposed to me in that area". So our team went back, bulldozed the niche and brought it back as an important part of the restoration."

"We've got some really fun and innovative events going on to celebrate this special occasion", Joe said. For example, they are creating a memory contest beginning on October 16, 2015. Winners will be able to get tickets for every show for the entire year.

Ringo Starr is performing on October 23, as part of the celebration. Two days prior, Ringo's art will be displayed and available for visitors to view on October 21 and 22.

The Colonial Theatre will be going "off line" after The Book of Mormon. Emerson College is trying to decide what to do next...

Upcoming shows at Citi Performing Arts Center include Rudolph, The Grinch, The Elf, Once, Love Letters, Rain and River Dance.

Next up, Joe D introduced Sue Dahling Sullivan, Chief of Staff/Chief Strategic Officer. Sue was delighted to share with us the exciting news all about Art Week. 40 Neighborhoods and towns are involved in putting this multi-day extravaganza together including Lowell, Cape and the Islands, but the core of the events are held here in the Boston area. From September 25 through October 4 (10 days, 2 weekends) 65% of the events are free (or under \$25). They include: Outdoor Lawn at D, Kid Friendly Fair, Tiny Homes, Art October Fest, Free Master Classes by

BSO flutists, MIT Hack-a-thon. They are seeking volunteers. All the event details and calendar are included in the gift bags which were handed out at the end of the meeting.

Martha Davis took to the podium next and announced MFA's Major exhibit - Class Distinctions, Dutch Art in the name of Rembrandt and Breunel ...Opening October 7, 2015, 75 paintings with only two owned by the Museum of Fine Arts). Queen Elizabeth is loaning a Rembrandt for two months. Queen Beatrice of the Netherlands will be attending the opening celebration event. Dutch Paintings in the golden era, no royalty painters painted every day life -- this special one of a kind exhibit is here for a short time only in the USA. Tickets to the opening celebration are included in your gift bags.

Jen Faulk of ArtsBoston along with her colleague Ryan approached the podium to welcome our guests to the exciting Arts Boston Fall agenda. Some of the events include Carol King, Courtney Cove, Shakespeare, 40th anniversary celebration at ArtsBoston. From September 16-20, Let's Dance Boston sets up on the Rose Kennedy Greenway for some great dancing and music for all genres. October 10, the ICA exhibits "Leap before you Look" . There are over 2000 events on ArtsBoston Calendar, this list is sent out every Tuesday. Bostix.org is now selling tickets for all shows and can be purchased on line. ArtsBoston has just made some great improvements to their website. On September 29, Greater Boston Theatre Expo takes place at the Cyclorama in South Boston from 5-8pm. VIP tickets available from 4-5pm. Top Ten on Tuesday, sign up now.

Larry Linder of Boston Literary District came to speak next. He specifically highlighted Literary Lunch Break. This organization covers the areas from Washington Street to Dartmouth Street, from Beacon Hill to Government Center. The "Litt" District includes 88 literary sites in Boston -- "one city one story"... The only LITT district in the country. To learn more about upcoming events including Barney Frank's new book, contact Larry at info@bostonlit.org.

Betty greeted the members and thanked all the speakers. A special thank you was given to Joe D for putting this all together. Joe Spaulding got a big shout out and we especially loved his stories -- Betty reminded us that she has a special place in her heart for the theatre when she attended the Nutcracker 30 years ago. Betty then reviewed with the attendees the upcoming election and the process of running for office.

On September 24, the GBCA members are invited to a lovely luncheon - invites to follow. At this meeting, we will go over in more detail the upcoming election process and encourage any member in good standing to consider running for an officer position.

Betty then wanted to share with us a story that she read in the Patriot Ledger of an amazing woman who swam 18 miles from Hull to Nahant -- that special lady is our own member Helen Linn, previously of Sheer Madness, now with Laugh Boston...Cheers to Helen and her amazing strength and ability!

A few other announcements included: Koy a new restaurant in the North End Tickets for the Topsfield Fare are available for purchase as well as Ringling Bros. Circus -- contact Betty for further details.

Evan Martin, our VP of PR was introduced. Other announcements included: Boston Spot Light's September 15 event at Waterfront Cafe in the North End; Spirit of Boston event on September 11; September 23 GBCA event at the Design Center; October 19 GBCA event at Frost Bar; Fireworks in Provincetown on January 2, 2016; Oyster Fest at Legal Sea Foods September through October 4; Boston Duck Tours 9am Tours until October 31, All

December tours leave from Prudential only; Chris Leary of the InterContinental is proud parent of new baby boy, Shawn Michael.