

# THE Mansfield

Center for the Performing Arts  
ADVISORY BOARD

Friday, April 19, 2013  
Gibson Room at the Great Falls Civic Center  
Call to Order: 12:05 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

Advisory Board Members Present: Joe Fontana, Keern Haslem, Mary Sheehy Moe, Sue Ferrin, Kim Thiel Schaaf

Advisory Board Members Absent: Carl Donovan, Larry Gomoll

City Staff Present: Dona Hughes, Events Supervisor

Guest Speaker: Clint Jackson, Montana School Equipment Company

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Board welcomed new Board Member, Kim Thiel Schaaf

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Minutes**

Kim Thiel Schaaf presented a correction to the minutes. The number of required wheelchair positions was not filled out in the minutes. Dona reported that it was 15. Keern Haslem moved and Joe Fontana seconded to approve the March minutes with the correction. Board members present unanimously approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Theater Seating Project – Guest Speaker, Clint Jackson of Montana School Equipment Company (MSEC)**

Clint Jackson represents Irwin Seating Company and still works with American Seating that was established in the early 1900's. His company is competitive and has completed many jobs in Montana including Bill Williamson Hall at CMR High School, MSU Northern, University of Montana, Myrna Loy and Grand Street Theater.

Clint is very familiar with the Mansfield Theater seating. He bid on the original retro-fit project back in the early 1990's. At that time, he recommended replacing the seating rather than renovating the seat due to the mechanics of the seats being fatigued. For the current project, he recommends that the City considers a company within the 200 mile perimeter in order to efficiently address maintenance issues that may arise throughout the years. (His company includes a 3-year maintenance service agreement at no additional cost with the purchase. They also would be able to have a crew out within a day.) Clint recommends hiring an architect to address design issues such as: fire and building codes; floor vents in the audience chamber that assist in the air flow; additional electric for aisle lights on each row of seats; and retention or enhancement of acoustical properties of the theater. Clint noted that the bells over the air vents are potential tripping hazards and recommends that they be renovated to a vent with a flat cover.

Clint recommends staying with the existing configuration as opposed to changing to continental seating on the main floor due to loss of inventory. Continental seating requires a 60" space between rows contributing to an enormous loss of inventory. Additionally, continental seating would most likely require installation of two more exits mid-house – one leading into the north hallway and one leading into the south hallway. Clint noted that there will be a loss of inventory for the existing configuration due to wider seats and more space between rows, but it would be significantly less. He estimated that we would lose two rows of seats per

section and one seat per row on the main floor. (Post meeting note: total estimated loss of seats for the main floor would be 65.)

When asked about the lack of space between the rows in the loge and balcony, Clint suggested seats could be cantilevered forward by 5% giving more space for patrons' legs without widen space between rows. Loss of inventory would then be one seat per row. (Post meeting note: total estimated loss of seats for the loge is 30. Total estimated loss of seats for the balcony is 61.)

When asked about the increase in cost due to years needed for fundraising, Clint recommended adding on a 4% -5 % increase in cost per year. Dona concurred stating that 5% per year is a standard formula that the City uses.

Clint also offered that the Theater seat committee could choose a chair and fabric and MSEC would order the sample for display for fundraising purposes. As a side note, he added that Irwin has many standard fabrics, but if a unique fabric were selected, he would recommend ordering extra for repairs through the years.

**Next Steps:**

1. Hire an architect. When asked for a recommendation, Clint stated that he likes L'Heureux Page Werner and Marv Hessler of Hessler Architects. Dona noted that in the past City Engineering had a rotation schedule for architectural firms in order to fairly allocate jobs so we may not be able to choose a firm. She will check if that is still the case.
2. Dona and Clint will meet the first week of June. Clint will come in free of charge and shoot the dimensions of the audience chamber and put together a plan. The plan would be drawn up on CAD. While there is still a need to work with an architect, this plan would enable the Board and Mansfield Theater seat committee to start planning for fundraising, etc. Clint will be fine with The Mansfield sharing the plan with the chosen architectural firm, but will not authorize sharing it with other manufacturers.
3. Clint will present drawings to the Mansfield Advisory Board at the September meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

September 20, 2013 at noon

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (Public Comment)**

No petitions or communication were presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, Joe Fontana moved and Kim Thiel Schaaf seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

  
Mary Sheehy Moe, Chairman

**Action Items Pending**

1. Dona to contact City Engineer re: selection of architectural firm
2. Dona to set up a meeting with Clint Jackson to walk Mansfield Theater and Clint to shoot dimensions for floor plan