



Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre

Extraordinary General Meeting

Tuesday 6th November 2012

7.30pm

**at Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road, London N2
9ED**

Minutes of meeting

Present: Ruth Mulandi, Roger Chapman, Ken Osborne, Cheryl Ferner-Reeves, Sarah Cohen, Julia Bramson, Christine Marchesi, Sarah Marchesi, Marian Stratton, Tess Glenday, Peggy Sharp, Andrew Harrod, Stan Spinks, Robina Spinks, Sam White, Cecilia Holmes, Ruth Brown, Liz Sacre

1. Welcome and introduction

Ruth Mulandi, Chair of FoFYT welcomed everyone to the meeting the purpose of which was to discuss the future of FoFYT with the intention of revitalising it.

Ruth asked each of the 15 people attending to introduce themselves and say a little about why they were attending this meeting.

2. Chair's presentation:

- background, history and governance of FoFYT

Ruth explained that FoFYT had been established as a registered charity in 1996. In that iteration the group had only met a couple of times and done very little. In about 2006 Julian Bergin, the previous manager of FYT, had involved Ruth in revitalising the group. They made a promising start, managing to get a Barnet Children's Fund grant of £3,500 to purchase a PA system and roll up dance floor and this officially remains the property of the FoFYT, but after two years had found it difficult to establish a purpose and identity for FoFYT. It gradually fell into inactivity and was in the process of being wound up before this meeting was called.

The Friends are a registered Charity set up to support FYT. FYT are a Barnet Council service and at the time there was all-round concern to fundraise for what was seen as a funded main line Council service.

FoFYT is set up as a membership organisation. However it proved difficult to attract people to membership at that time.

Ruth has been in touch with all the existing trustees. They are all ready to resign. Ruth and the existing Treasurer would stay on until the bank account had been transferred.

- Financial position

FoFYT has a bank account with the Co-operative Bank which has a balance of £186.

The Chair then invited Liz Sacre, the Senior Arts Worker at FYT to explain the current FYT activities and the current circumstances. Liz explained that the Council's Youth Support Service faces a £500k cut in 2013/14 but FYT and the Senior Arts Worker post are currently secure. Further cuts can be expected in future years.

Two 'Community Right to Challenge' bids have been made to run the service at FYT and the Council are considering how to respond to these approaches. The earliest time that any successful challenge could lead to a change in provider would probably be in 2014.

Liz ran through the range of services currently provided and the broadening out of activities that has taken place in recent times, involving external partners.

3. Discussion: The future of Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre

A wide ranging discussion was held about what role a Friends group could play and what activities it should undertake. This included the following points:

- Strategically think about the need to face long term threats to FYT and consider developing our own Community right to Challenge and Community right to Bid under the Localism Act.
- Act as a support to the Senior Arts Worker who now remains the sole Arts worker in London Borough of Barnet;
- Fundraising – a sensitive area but need to think 'value added' i.e. something over and above Council funded service e.g. funding to help take shows abroad or to other parts of the country;
- Ascertain what local people want through a survey/questionnaire;

- Assist in publicising FYT and its activities; current perception that people do not know the activities that take place and it can be seen as an exclusive club to some;
- Build a membership organisation with discounts etc perhaps using the Friends of the Phoenix Cinema as a model;
- Introduce a social element and talks to the FYT events calendar;
- Assist in opening buildings for new activities at time when building not currently used to its maximum;
- Fundraising idea to introduce health promotion for young people;
- Hold open days to invite local people in and showcase what goes on in the FYT; Tie in to High Road event on 8th December;
- Identify a patron for FoFYT – David Jason was mentioned;
- Consider links with the Phoenix Cinema

Those attending confirmed they would be happy in taking some of these ideas and actions forward.

Cecilia Holmes offered to draft a vision and mission statement, using everyone's ideas.

Action: Liz Sacre to circulate email contact list to all. All to email their thoughts to Cecilia for the vision mission draft.

4. Appointment of trustees including election of:

Four people came forward as Trustees and were duly elected:

- Roger Chapman
- Stan Spinks
- Marian Stratton
- Ken Osborne

It was decided to defer appointment of officer positions until the next Board meeting.

5. Agreement to new bank account signatories

Roger Chapman was agreed as new signatory on the FoFYT Bank account.

6. Any other Business

None

7. Date of next Board meeting

It was agreed that the new Board of Trustees would meet at **6.30pm on Tuesday 27th November 2012 at the FYT.**

This will be followed at **7.30pm also at FYT** by an open meeting to which all would be invited to attend and participate to think in more depth about the range of things that FoFYT should do.

DRAFT