

Friends of the Ritz, Inc

January 25, 2022, Board Meeting
7:00 PM Historic Ritz Theatre
Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
DATE: 10/26/21 **TIME:** 7:00pm
(Tonight's meeting minutes will be recorded by Stephanie Cortellino, she is not a Board member but is a FOTR member).
Roll Call by Secretary Stephanie Cortellino
President Gary Cortellino: X , Treasurer Keith Kozicki: X ,
Sharon Crenshaw: X , Sharon Crosby: X , Evan Hellenga: X ,
Vicky King: X , Ron Matheson: X ,
- II. Approval of January 25, 2022, Meeting Agenda
Motion: Sharon Crosby Second: Ron Matheson
- III. Approval of October 26th, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes and Financial Report
Motion: Evan Hellenga Second: Keith Kozicki
- IV. Reports:
 - a) **Treasurer's Report/Block Grant – Keith Kozicki**
(See attached report) **Current Balance - \$10,655.17**
Upcoming expenses: \$4,000 Lightwire -Performance Fee
\$1,903 Ligthwire -Marketing Expenses
\$100 Ga. Presenters Membership
\$100 Chamber of Commerce Membership
\$20 Ga. SOS Annual Registration
Estimated Cash on hand after expenses: \$4,432.17
 - b) **Programming Committee Report – Sharon Crosby**
Sharon had nothing to report at this time.
Keith reported that Lightwire cannot come to the Ritz on April 8, 2022,
The new dates that they are available are May 5 and May 7. The Board decided on
May 7, 2022 as the new date.
 - c) **Membership Committee Report – Gary Cortellino**
56 Members in 2021
58 Members currently for 2022
All memberships will expire 12/31/2022
- V. **Old Business:**
 - a) **Beer & Wine Sales – Gary Cortellino/Keith Kozicki**
The Toccoa City Commission recently approved a city entertainment district. The City of Toccoa will also have a licence for Beer and Wine at the Ritz Theatre. A city staff member will have to serve the beer and wine at the Ritz Theatre. This is very exciting news since Puerto Nuevo could not always provide us with a server for our events.

VI. New Business:

a) **Home Depot Grant: how do we spend it (Gary)**

Chris Chambers has given FOTR a wish list for items to purchase with the Home Depot Grant. Cortellino will follow with the details about the requested Toolbox. The Board was asked to look over the items and give feedback.

b) **Katie Deal Concert: pro vs cons (Gary)**

Positive Event, concerns about the stage lighting

c) **Georgia Presenters Winter Meeting Feb. 14 Woodstock (Gary)**

Members were encouraged to attend.

d) **Toccoa/Stephens County Living Here magazine ad (Keith)**

Discussion on a possible ad in the magazine – the deadline was missed.

e) **Toccoa Tomorrow (Ron)**

Ron attended the meeting of Toccoa Tomorrow. At the meeting several Real Estate agents discussed the need for the entertainment district. Realtors shared that not having an entertainment district is a roadblock for attracting new businesses to Toccoa. This meeting was prior to the Toccoa City Commission meeting where the Entertainment District was approved.

f) **FOTR Board Voting (Keith) - See minutes on Page 3**

VII. Public Comments – Cortellino welcomed our FOTR Members that attended the meeting.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting 7:26pm

Motion – Evan Hellenga Second: Keith Kozicki

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 26th , 2022 @ 7 pm

**Voting for the Friends of the Ritz Board 2022
January 25th 2022**

Keith Kozicki conducted the counting of the votes with the assistance of Sharon Crosby.

Prior to the meeting Kozicki had tabulated the votes sent in by email by current FOTR Board Members.

The list of members seeking to be on the Board is as follows:

**Nathan Collins
Gary Cortellino
Sharon Crenshaw
Sharon Crosby
Mark Elam
Shantelle Grant
Evan Hellenga
Vicky King
Keith Kozicki
Ron Matheson
Karon Miller**

Kozicki tabulated the paper votes with the assistance of Sharon Crosby.

The 2022 Board Members are:

**Nathan Collins
Gary Cortellino
Sharon Crosby
Mark Elam
Shantelle Grant
Evan Hellenga
Vicky King
Keith Kozicki
Ron Matheson
Karon Miller**

**After the announcement of the new Board members, Evan Hellenga requested to be removed Board and to take the next person in line.
Vicky King will now replace Hellenga on the Board.**

Kozicki stated that if anyone would like to see the ballots, he would be happy to make them available to be transparent.

There was a discussion about getting the new Board Members together to vote on the officers. Keith Kozicki volunteered to be Treasurer again. Ron Matheson agreed to be considered for Vice President/President Elect. Gary Cortellino agreed to be President again. The final decision will be made by the new Board at a meeting to be determined. There was also a discussion about the vision of the FOTR going forward.

