



**Friends of the Ritz, Inc.  
Board Meeting Minutes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7 pm  
Toccoa- Stephens County Library**

**I: Call to Order/Roll Call**

Regular meeting called to order by President Gary Cortellino Time: 7:06 pm  
(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: P, Treasurer Keith Kozicki: P, Sharon Crenshaw: P,  
Sharon Crosby: P, Evan Hellenga: P, Vicky King: P, Ron Matheson: P

**II: Approval of Agenda April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Motion: Sharon Crenshaw Second: Evan Hellenga

**III: Approval of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes:**

Motion: Keith Kozicki Second: Evan Hellenga

**IV: Reports:**

**a. Treasurer's Report - Keith Kozicki**

Balance as of today \$3500.83 in checking

All bills have been paid.

Forms with the Secretary of State Office has been filed as well as the  
IRS report 990.

Motion Keith Kozicki Second: Ron Matheson

**b. Programming**

Gary Cortellino attended the online meeting of Georgia Presenters. Much of  
the meeting centered around Covid issues and programs for children.

Need a programming Committee – Sharon Crosby volunteered

Discussion of partnership with FOR & Toccoa Mainstreet for the Holly Jolly  
Christmas Show starring Katie Deal – Dec 10th.

FOR would give part of the money for the show and receive money from the  
sale of tickets. Keith Kozicki will follow up with Tami Mayhugh to discuss  
details regarding this partnership.

As far as scheduling other shows – nothing as this time.

Gary Cortellino shared that he has been looking at various grants for the  
FOR. Many of the grants focus on arts education for students. Discussion  
regarding a Drama Camp at the Ritz. Sharon Crosby shared that in the past  
the drama camp was successful.

Need: A person to lead the camp. Costs include license for play, supplies  
and the instructor. This idea was tabled – a possibility for the future. Evan

Hellenga mentioned that the local Rotary Club might be an avenue for a grant for the camp.

**c. Membership**

Gary Cortellino reported that we currently have 53 active members.

**V: Old Business (Gary & Keith)**

**Beer/wines sales**

Keith Kozicki gave an update on the Beer/wine sales. Ping's restaurant was approached regarding the sale of beer/wine at the Ritz. They were extremely interested but wanted to talk it over with their insurance company. The insurance company said no it would not work due to liability insurance.

Another option: Ga State Special Event Permit This is how other theaters sale beer/wine.

Under this permit you could sell at 6 events (\$25.00 per event)

City of Toccoa has liquor liability insurance policy but a city employee must be the person selling the beer/wine.

With this permit we would not have to buy from a distributor – purchase beer/wine at local grocery store.

We would sell at all Ritz events.

FOTR could investigate getting a liquor liability policy - \$1300 year.

Sharon Crosby suggested that we discuss the next steps with Fredda Wheeler in the city office. Share with her the information that we currently have and ask for next steps.

Keith Kozicki will follow up with Ms. Wheeler.

Motion was made to go forward with this:

Evan Hellenga Second: Ron Matheson.

**VI: New Business (Gary)**

- **FOTR updated website**...please comment so we can get it right!  
Thank you to Christian Hamilton for his assistance in updating the website.
- **Georgia Presenters** (virtual) monthly meeting Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> (report)  
See minutes under programming.
- **Funding/Sponsorship/Donations update**  
Gary Cortellino has sent out letters to local businesses asking for support of FOR.
  - State Farm – Kersha Parker - \$200
  - Mike Nicholson – \$150Gary Cortellino encouraged board members to send out letters. There was a discussion about levels for donations for businesses. Ron Matheson suggested starting at \$100. For example, \$100 – Bronze \$250- Silver \$500 – Gold
- Keith will come up with suggestions for 3 levels of business sponsorship at the next Board Meeting, based on what sponsorship levels other nearby venues are doing.
- **What's NEXT???**  
Sharon Crosby shared an idea regarding a GALA at Reflections. Erik Fulkerson, Chef (fiancé of Tami Mayhugh) would cook the meal. Dinner,

drinks, and dancing. An event like the Mardi Gras the Toccoa Symphony has. The board was very receptive to this idea and is looking at March 2022 for the event.

**VII: Public Comments:**

A member sent an email with the following question: Is the movie The Mulligan going to have the premier at the Ritz. Currently, we do not know.

Someone purchased 4 tickets to Dad's Garage and did not attend because they thought it was cancelled. They requested a refund. Keith Kozicki worked with Main Street, Tami Mayhugh and they were gracious enough to give patron 4 tickets to an upcoming John Denver concert.

**Next Meeting(s):** 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board meeting is Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7 pm  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board meeting is Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7 pm

**VIII: Adjourn:**

Motion: Sharon Crenshaw, Second: Keith Kozicki

Adjourned: 8:23pm

