

HOUSTON BALLET FOUNDATION
Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES
Margaret Alkek Williams Dance Lab
Monday, September 23, 2019 at 4:30 pm

Call to order:

The Houston Ballet Board of Trustees meeting was held in the Margaret Alkek Williams Dance Lab of the Center for Dance in Houston, Texas on Monday, September 23, 2019. The meeting convened at 4:34pm.

Quorum: achieved (per by-law requirements)

Trustees Present:

Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw, Mrs. Lenore K. Burke, Mrs. Wendy Wilkins Burks, Mr. Richard L. Burlison, Mrs. Lilly Cullen, Mrs. Donald L. Erskine, Mrs. Allison F. Flikerski, Mrs. Mignon Gill, Sandra S. Godfrey, Mr. Herschel Hamner, Dr. Joshua Harris, Ms. Michelle Iversen Jeffery, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, Elizabeth Mata Kroger, Mrs. Elizabeth Leykum, Chad Libertus, Mr. Mark Loveland, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mr. Jerry Martin, Mrs. Jean E. May, Mrs. Kris McGee, Mrs. Martha Rocks McMurrey, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Mr. James J. Parr, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Mrs. Carroll Robertson Ray, Ms. Elizabeth Schwarze, Mrs. Leigh M. Smith, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Ms. Ann Trammell, Mrs. Phoebe Tudor, Mrs. Christine Underwood, Mrs. Kelli Weinzierl, Mrs. Lynn Wyatt and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick.

Guests Present:

Erica Robinson and Karen Wilkson, Orchestra Representatives; Bridget Kuhns and Oliver Halkowich, Houston Ballet Dancers; Ms. Ann Bean; Mrs. Sara Parr, Chairman of the 2019 Nutcracker Market.

Staff Present:

Melissa Bowman, Patsy Chapman, Kelli Gilson, Lucy Graham, Angela Lane, Angela Lee, James Nelson, Stanton Welch and Ty Woodfolk.

Ms. S. Shawn Stephens called to order the Board of Trustees Meeting. Ms. Stephens called for a vote to fill a vacant seat on the Board. Ms. Stephens presented Ms. Ann Bean as a new trustee to replace a trustee who recently left the Board since the Annual Meeting in May 2019. With a quorum established, Ms. Ann Bean was approved to join the trustee class of 2022. Following this, the minutes from the May 20, 2019 Annual meeting were approved.

Ms. Stephens then introduced and welcomed all the new trustees.

Ms. Stephens then called upon Mrs. Sara Parr to give an update on the 2019 Nutcracker Market. Mrs. Parr provided details on the 39th Annual Nutcracker Market, which will be held at the NRG Center, November 14 – 17, 2019 and invited trustees to save the date for the 2020 Spring Spectacular taking place April 17-19, 2020.

Ms. Stephens thanked Mrs. Parr for her report then gave a Special Events report. Ms. Stephens provided details on the Alumni Weekend (December 6-8, 2019), Ambassador Night at *The Nutcracker* on December 12, 2019 and showcased opportunities for trustee involved with the Arabesque Society. Following this, Ms. Stephens reported the success of the September 6th Onstage Dinner which sold out and exceeded expectations thanks to the leadership of Mr. Jesse H Jones II and Mrs. Lynn Wyatt. Ms. Stephens concluded her report by providing updates on the 2020 Houston Ballet Ball which will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2020 and Raising the Barre, which will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

Mr. Stephens then invited Mr. James Nelson and Mr. Stanton Welch to give the Directors' report.

Directors' Report

Mr. Nelson began by reporting on the 2018/2019 year-end financials and thanked trustees for their continued support and commitment to the Ballet which paved the way for a strong 2018/2019 season. Mr. Nelson also congratulated Mr. Welch on the successful start of the 50th Anniversary season and showcased the work in progress on the HBCFD stairwell installation project, generously underwritten by Carroll and Hugh Ray. Mr. Welch then discussed the recent performances of *Giselle*, *Passion*, *Murmuration*, and the world premiers of *Elapse* and *Following*. Mr. Welch then invited Oliver Halkowich, First Soloist, to share his recent experience choreographing *Following*.

After Oliver's remarks Mr. Welch continued the report by discussing the company's upcoming tour to New York City Center, October 24-26, 2019 and provided details on the Jubilee of Dance taking place on December 6, 2019. Mr. Welch then noted the Houston Ballet and The Australian Ballet exchange in Houston Ballet dancers, Connor Walsh and Karina Gonzalez will dance in *Sylvia* with The Australian Ballet in November 2019, and The Australian Ballet dancers, Ty King-Wall and Valerie Tereshchenko will dance in Houston Ballet's *Nutcracker* in December 2019.

Mr. Welch and Mr. Nelson continued by discussing Houston's Ballet's holiday performance in collaboration with Houston Methodist on December 10, 2019 and provided details on the HBII evaluations slated to take place in December 2019. They concluded the Directors' report by showing the 'I am Houston Ballet' 50th Anniversary campaign and then invited the HB Academy students to perform the finale from Welch's *Brigade*.

Ms. Stephens thanked Mr. Nelson and Mr. Welch for their report.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm.