

UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA
BOARD MEETING
MAY 19, 2025
MINUTES

Elected, Ex-officio, and Lifetime Board members who attended in person: Steven Brosvik, Paul Burdiss, David Dee, Jason Englund, Brian Greeff, Stephen Tanner Irish, Tom Jacobson, Annette Jarvis, Judy Moreton, David Mortensen, Christina Myers (Onstage Ogden), Dinesh Patel, Miguel Rovira, Barb Scowcroft (musician), Joanne Shiebler, Stan Sorensen, Jim Tozer, David Utrilla, Kim Wilson, and Henry Wurts.

Elected, Ex-officio, and Lifetime Board members who attended via videoconference: Stewart Barlow, Larry Brownstein, John D’Arcy, Luz Escamilla, Julie Aiken Hansen, Dennis Hranitzky, Tom Love, Abbie Lowder, Dave Petersen, Travis Peterson (musician), Pat Richards, Clint Stone, and Don Willie.

Elected and Lifetime Board members not available to participate: George Cardon-Bystry, Gary Crocker, Barry Eden, Jonathan Freedman, Brandon Fugal, Kem Gardner, Dan Hemmert, Jon Huntsman Jr., Frank Joklik, Scott Parker, Frank Pignanelli, Gary Porter, Shar Quinney, Harris Simmons, Shane Stowell, Tom Thatcher, Sharlene Wells, and Thomas Wright.

Staff and guests present: David Green, David Hodges, Steve Hogan, Ben Kipp, Meredith Kimball Laing, Christopher McBeth, Julie McBeth, Garrett Murphy, Leslie Peterson, Kerry Smith, Katie Swainston, and Gregory Walz.

I. Welcome and Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees Chair Brian Greeff welcomed the meeting participants, introduced Christina Myers, who was attending her first meeting as the Onstage Ogden Ex-officio representative to the USUO Board, and conducted the meeting. He asked if there were any questions, comments, or recommended changes to items included in the Consent Agenda. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Consent Agenda, which consisted of draft minutes from the February 25, 2025 Board Meeting, a Strategic Plan progress report, and a proposed Production Studios Capital Expense, was adopted by majority vote.

Mr. Greeff invited Barbara Scowcroft to provide an update about her colleague James Hall, who had a medical emergency during the concert the previous Friday. Ms. Scowcroft relayed that Mr. Hall was home and recovering. She highlighted the compassion and teamwork demonstrated the night of the event while noting a general morale challenge among the musicians. The board members discussed initiatives underway to connect musicians with board members and donors.

Nominating Committee update: Mr. Greeff shared that he would not be seeking an additional term as Board Chair when his three-year term ended August 31, 2025. He explained that his love for and commitment to the organization were undiminished, but felt that the board and the organization deserved a board chair who was fully present in Utah to regularly attend performances and board meetings in person. He highlighted reasons that he felt the timing for a transition was good including, progress on the strategic plan, identification of next music director, continuity in the CEO position, and a deep bench of potential future board leaders. He noted his recommendation to the nominating and executive committees that Annette Jarvis be considered for election as the next Board Chair. The board members thanked Mr. Greeff for his service and discussed that it would be helpful for Ms. Jarvis to have an official status of Chair Elect during the June 2025 League of American Orchestras Conference. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted by majority vote.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees elect Annette W. Jarvis as Board Chair for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2025.

II. Deer Valley Music Festival update: President & CEO Steve Brosvik highlighted performances in the upcoming 2025 Deer Valley® Music Festival and noted that about 7,000 tickets had already been sold since the April 16th announcement of programming. He reminded trustees that performance scheduling had been slowed the last two years because of uncertainty about construction impact at the venue and noted that USUO would explore multiple scenarios and their potential impact on earned and unearned revenue in order to make a more-timely decision for summer 2026, regardless of whether construction plans were confirmed by the resort.

III. Finance Committee report: VP of Finance and CFO Steve Hogan relayed a number of factors that led to a reduction of the projected deficit for FY25 from \$4.4 million to \$2.4 million. He talked through risks in the proposed FY26 budget located on page 19 of the meeting materials, then reviewed the cash projections report on page 18 reminding trustees of the sources of board restricted funds. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board voted to adopt the following.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the FY26 budget represented on page 19 of the meeting materials.

IV. Vision for the future: Mr. Brosvik reflected on the 4.5 years of his tenure noting a number of ways that USUO had emerged from the pandemic a stronger company including, not taking an endowment draw for two years, implementing segregation of ticket sales to restrict those funds to be used at the time of performance, increasing revenues through strategic plan execution, completing the music director search, and increasing external partnerships and visibility. He then outlined a number of upcoming challenges (continued budget concerns, Abravanel Hall needs, DV venue uncertainty, and Production Studio needs) as well as opportunities (campaign, new music director, opera 50th season, festival reimagining, artistic projects, grand reopening of Temple Square, and 2034 Olympics) and potentially difficult solutions if budget concerns could not be solved through increased revenue. Board members expressed appreciation for transparency of the presented information; asked clarifying questions regarding impact, timing, and triggers; and offered feedback.

V. Other Business / Executive Session: The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Minutes Recorded By:

Julie McBeth

Minutes Approved By:

Board vote at August 12, 2025 meeting