UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA
BOARD MEETING
MAY 11, 2026
MINUTES

Attended in person: Steven Brosvik, John D'Arcy, Barry Eden, Jason Englund, Jonathan Freedman, Dennis Hranitzky, Annette Jarvis, Andrew Keller (musician), Abbie Lowder, Derek Miller, David Mortensen, Christina Myers (Onstage Ogden), Gary Porter, Jennifer Price-Wallin, Miguel Rovira, Joanne Shiebler, Stan Sorensen, Shane Stowell, Sharlene Wells, Kim Wilson, and Curtis Woodbury (Associate Board), attended from the Elected, Ex-officio, and Lifetime Boards.

Attended via videoconference: Paul Burdiss, George Cardon-Bystry, Brian Greeff, Frank Pignanelli, Pat Richards, Shar Quinney, and Jim Tozer.

Elected and Lifetime Board members not available to participate: Stewart Barlow, Larry Brownstein, Gary Crocker, David Dee, Luz Escamilla, Brandon Fugal, Kem Gardner, Marie Gochnour Gardner, Jon Huntsman Jr., Stephen Irish, Tom Jacobson, Frank Joklik, Tom Love, Judy Moreton, Scott Parker, Dinesh Patel, Dave Petersen, Harris Simmons, Aaron Starks, Lissa Stolz (musician), Clint Stone, Tom Thatcher, David Utrilla, Don Willie, Thomas Wright, and Henry Wurts.

Staff and guests present in person: Jeffrey Andreasen, Amy McKay Butler (ZAP), Mara Dumski (Pura), Calli Forsyth, David Green, David Hodges, Ben Kipp, Peter Klinge (ZAP), Meredith Kimball Laing, Julie McBeth, Garrett Murphy, Mary Catherine Perry (Salt Lake Chamber), Leslie Peterson, and Natty Taylor.

Staff and guests present via video conference: Christopher McBeth, Michelle Peterson, and Lori Wike.

I. Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees Chair Annette Jarvis called the meeting to order and invited Trustees to join the reception in honor of Leslie Peterson's retirement as well as the opera performance directly following the meeting. She asked whether anyone had comments or questions about the Consent Agenda. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the draft minutes from the February 9, 2026 Annual General Meeting, the February 9, 2026 Board Meeting, and an Executive Summary, was adopted by majority vote.

II. Nominating Committee: President & CEO Steve Brosvik shared a recommendation from the Nominating and Executive Committees that Scott Huntsman be elected to the Board of Trustees to serve a three-year term beginning September 1, 2026. He noted Mr. Huntsman's current engagement with USUO and shared a short biography, found on page 8 of the meeting materials. Upon motions duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted by majority vote.

> RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed election of Scott Huntsman to serve a three-year term of service on the Board beginning September 1, 2026.

III. Institutional Giving and Engagement: David Hodges, Development Director, Institutional Giving, and Calli Forsyth, Assistant Director, Sponsorships & Engagement, presented an overview of USUO's institutional giving and engagement efforts, utilizing testimonials from corporate and government partners, and framing the work within a broader culture of philanthropy in which board, musicians, and staff all shared responsibility for donor engagement.

They reported that total institutional giving was projected to be $11.53 million for FY26: $5.49 million in government funding (state, county, and city sources, including POPS and ZAP), $3.58 million in foundation funding (a stable revenue source tied closely to education programming), and $2.46 million in corporate funding (anchored by major sponsors O.C. Tanner Company and Zions Bank). They noted that corporate giving remained the most competitive category (and offered the greatest long-term growth potential) and shared that a recent asset valuation study (with Professional Sports Partners) helped calibrate realistic sponsorship pricing and refine USUO's pitch to prospective partners.

They outlined a five-year scalable engagement strategy built around formal partnerships with organizations such as World Trade Center Utah, 47G, and the Salt Lake Chamber. They noted that these partnerships provided access to corporate and civic leaders and offered exposure opportunities through initiatives like co-created events and activations. They highlighted additional relationships with the Utah Valley Chamber, USUO's Associate Board, Utah 2034 Olympic/Paralympic planning efforts, and various marketing partnerships including UTA, FanX, and advertisement placements. They cited cross-departmental alignment between the USUO development, marketing, and education teams as a growing strength, particularly through shared initiatives like POPS and the Well-Being concert series.

They closed by inviting board members to support institutional giving efforts through personal introductions, social media amplification, and the identification of speaking or performance opportunities that would raise USUO's visibility with corporate and civic partners. Board members asked clarifying questions about corporate matching-gift programs and noted data services designed to help nonprofits cross-reference donor rolls against employer matching-gift databases.

IV. CEO Report: Mr. Brosvik noted several major upcoming events happening in downtown Salt Lake and throughout the state, including the 2027 Salt Lake Temple reopening celebration, the 2030 bicentennial of the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. He shared some ways that USUO was seeking alignment with those events, beginning with a pioneer instruments (and associated histories) display in the Abravanel Hall lobby when the estimated 35,000 people per day would be touring the reopened Salt Lake Temple across the street from the hall.

Mr. Brosvik addressed the uncertainty tied to the Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention District development and its impact on Abravanel Hall. He explained that the hall's backstage would be demolished and rebuilt as part of the Salt Palace Convention Center redevelopment and noted that the full scope of the project and timing was not yet known. He shared that, as a worst-case scenario, the organization was planning for displacement from the hall as early as the 2027-28 season, with a hope to consolidate each performance series into a single alternate venue to minimize disruption for audiences. He added that the 2027-28 season would also mark Utah Opera's 50th anniversary season and be Markus Poschner's first official season as Music Director, both providing opportunities for excitement and creativity in the midst of the displacement of orchestral series concerts.

Mr. Brosvik recognized Leslie Peterson, VP of Development, who would be retiring at the end of May after 17 years as USUO’s development lead. He noted her incredible success leading USUO’s development team (which needed to average $270,000 in weekly contributions to meet its annual goal) and prior service with Utah Opera from 1980 to 2002, including a period as interim general director.

V. Adjourn: Ms. Jarvis highlighted the Park City Gala to be held in conjunction with the opening night of the 2026 Deer Valley® Music Festival and encouraged strong board participation in the event. She asked if there was any additional business to bring before the Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes Recorded By:	**Minutes Approved By:**
Julie McBeth	Board vote at August 10, 2026 meeting