

THE MERCURY CX

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Date:	30 th May 2023
Time:	1818 ACST
Place:	Mercury Cinema 13 Morphett Street Adelaide SA 5000

Item Description
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>See attached RSVP list and screen shot of members on zoom.</p> <p>Kirsty Stark (KS) acknowledged the assistance and input of the members and reiterated that the Mercury CX is and always has been a member-based organisation.</p> <p>KS stated an Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>KS thanked the board, staff and volunteers.</p> <p>KS thanked the Mercurians for offering a lifeline to the Mercury.</p> <p>KS welcomed Hon Minister Andrea Michaels MP.</p> <p>KS acknowledged her co-chair Peter Hanlon and fellow board directors in person and on zoom, Anton Adreacchio Chair of AFF, Lauren Hillman General Manager Channel 44.</p> <p>KS thanked drinks sponsors Longview and Little Bang Brewing Company.</p>
<p>2. Minutes of AGM 2022</p> <p>Kirsty noted that despite our best efforts we were unable to find minutes for the last AGM and therefore we are unable to present them for acceptance.</p>

3. Annual Report 2022 / Treasurer's Report 2022

Presented by Interim General Manager Lisa Bishop (LB)

LB highlighted messages from the outgoing CEO and outgoing board in the Annual Report and noted these were emailed to the members at the end of 2022.

LB talked through the production and exhibition activities of 2022.

LB presented the financial outcomes from 2022 and highlighted grants, donations and membership fees received.

LB presented a loss of greater than \$280,000, and stated that the cinema ran at a loss, the association ran no major events and that the major expense was wages.

LB highlighted that the new board and management could see it was evident that a new business model was needed to cover ongoing operational costs.

LB highlighted the auditor's report was unqualified.

4. Chair's Report

Presented by KS

KS highlighted that as a board, they had to articulate what was special about the Mercury. The membership consultation provided them with guidance – it is a place of connection. It is a vital heartbeat of the industry. It is a bridge for people wanting to engage in the industry in SA.

The Mercury is a bridging organisation that provides emerging screen makers with a pathway into a screen career and is home to a lifelong screen culture community.

KS talked about her history of engaging with The Mercury.

KS revealed that we will welcome back the South Australian Screen Awards, the Quicksilver Program and the Hanlon Larsen Screen Fellowship. She highlighted that there will be 10 Quicksilver projects up from 4 last year. Cinematheque and Silver Screen will be returning.

KS revealed what will be new:

Launch Lab (incorporating some of Screenmakers and Springboard with the addition of BLT workshops)
Script Club

24/7 Facilities
Updated Equipment
Heaps Good Cinema
Cinema Mechanica

Kirsty acknowledged the sponsorship, philanthropy and government support to get the Mercury to where it is. KS invited Minister Andrea Michaels to speak.

Minister Andrea Michaels acknowledged that shortly after becoming the Arts Minister she was given a consultant's report on the Mercury, and she is now very excited by the Mercury's future directions. She announced that in addition to the 50k lifeline at the end of the year, the State Government has committed to 150k over 2 years.

KS acknowledged all of the support the State Government has provided us, including the SAFC.

KS then talked to how closely we have been working with the SAFC, AFF and C44. We don't want to replicate any of their work and work in harmony.

KS broached the subject of operational funding. It is a challenge for organisations.

KS announced the \$25/month subscription model.

KS announced that the subscriptions are limited, and you need to be on our waiting list.

KS invited Peter Hanlon to speak.

PH highlighted his involvement in the Mercury. PH presented the Auditor's Report

5. Presentation of 2022 Financial Statements and Confirmation of Auditor's Report

Moved: Kath Dooley **Seconded:** Kieran McNamara

Motion Carried

6. Appointment of Auditor for 2023

PH thanked and acknowledged Dean Withers and Withers Advisory Chartered Accountants for undertaking the 2022 audit of the accounts on a pro bono basis. PH motioned that Withers be appointed as Auditor for 2023.

Moved: John Howard **Seconded:** Catherine Reid
Motion Carried.

7. Board Appointments

Board election not required as the number of nominations (9) was within the maximum number allowed on the board.
The membership voted for the nominees to be appointed to the board.

Kirsty Stark
Peter Hanlon
Lisa Scott
Kath Dooley
Rebecca Summerton
Maddie Parry
Adrian Tisato
Daniel Tune
Nara Wilson

Moved: Krystina Pindral **Seconded:** Helen Leake
Motion Carried.

8. Motion to Change Name

PH presented the change of name from Mercury CX to The Mercury – our focus needs to be on South Australia and not a national centre for excellence (CX). PH stated this change would cost nothing in terms of branding/logos.

PH stated that David Donaldson would like to propose a third option and invited him to make this proposal. David proposed “Mercury Screen”. He highlighted alphabetising is difficult with The and that it doesn’t come up easily when searching.

PH put it to the vote:

Mercury CX – 1

The Mercury – 37
Mercury Screen 34

9. Meeting Close

PH rounded up by saying the AGM is the more formal event, but we are having our official Mercury Rising Launch on Tuesday 27th June at 6pm which will feature our full 2023 program and subscriber offer.

He reiterated his thanks to Minister Michaels, her staff, the State Government and Becc Bates from DIIS for her support.

PH officially closed the AGM at 1901 ACST and invited a Q&A session.

Minute taker:	Gareth Wilkes
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Signed:	
Name:	
Date:	