

Ridgefield Arts Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2009

Committee members in attendance were Nancy (Baldwin) Andrews, Anne Marcus, Alison Greeley, Carolina Fernandez, Paul Gervais, Emelie Howard, Stan Madaloni, Kay Mayr, Meg Collins Stoop and Ruth Wilder-Feldman.

Auxiliary member in attendance was Ryan Bell.

Minutes:

September minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Anne commented that updates to the budget were pending as a result of the cancellation of the Cultural Festival; further discussion later in the meeting will impact the budget update. Otherwise, there have been no new expenses.

Update from the Chair:

Nancy reported on her monthly meeting with Rudy Marconi, where he reiterated his view of RAC as an umbrella organization for the arts organizations and businesses in town. He confirmed that he supports any fundraising efforts undertaken by the council to augment the funds allocated by the town. He was happy to see the web analytics report and that the activity on the site jumped during the Chekov Festival. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2009; interested council members should notify Nancy if you'd like to join her.

Nancy Andrews announced that Ryan Bell, who was previously interviewed for a position on the council, is interested in the opening created by Noelle Carr's resignation. Nancy will discuss whether Ryan is required to appear again before the Board of Selectmen. Once he is approved, Emelie Howard will prepare a press release.

Nancy also reiterated that in order to conclude monthly RAC meetings at a reasonable hour, members must arrive on time for an 8:00pm start. Meetings will be adjourned at 9:30pm (and in rare instances, no later than 9:45pm).

OLD BUSINESS:

Ridgefield Cultural Festival: Anne Marcus, Alison Greeley

Date: October 3, 2009

Committee: Meg Collins-Stoop, Paul Gervais, Emelie Howard, Kay Mayr, Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Alison presented the committees' recommendations in light of the cancellation. Due to park availability and committee schedules, the committee opted to not attempt to produce the event as planned on a different date. Instead, committee members will stage 'mini-versions' of a cultural festival on the steps on Town Hall throughout the month of October. Participants will be invited to join RAC members on Saturdays to promote their organizations, host demonstrations or perform.

Alison will prepare a letter to participants outlining the plan and offering the following options with respect to the \$35 fee:

1. Apply the fee paid to the 2010 Cultural Festival (pre-pay)
2. Request a refund minus expenses (\$15)
3. Donate the money to the Arts Council
4. Request a full \$35 refund.

As discussed earlier, these options will affect the overall accounting for the event, which was to be a self-sustaining event, and may impact the RAC budget. Alison will report on the actions taken by the participants at the next meeting.

Dates for 2009 – 2010 Events: Nancy Andrews

RAC members discussed the events members committed to producing and determined the following:

Networking Event:

Carolina will chair the committee.

She will reach out to the Aldrich to discuss partnering with them again this year and exploring potential dates, March 4th or 5th.

Behind the Scenes Award:

Nancy will assist with the planning, but would like someone else to chair the event this year.

RAC members agreed to explore May 13, 2010 as the date for the event.

Cultural Festival:

Alison will discuss dates for Ballard Park with Parks and Rec, focusing on the first and second weekends of October 2010 for the event date and the rain date.

The council voted to approve the following budgets for the events:

Behind the Scenes: \$1000

Networking Event: \$1200

The council also voted to supplement the budget allocated by the town with RAC's trust account to cover expenses for the above events as needed.

Nancy expressed concern that there was no money allocated to the Cultural Festival 2010 in this discussion. The RCF committee will again work to make that event a self-sustaining event by engaging local businesses with sponsorship opportunities. The committees for the Behind the Scenes and Networking events will also work to develop opportunities to bring down costs going forward so as not to fully deplete RAC's trust account.

By-laws: Meg Collins Stoop, Emelie Howard

A draft of the by-laws was read and comments were given, up to Article VI - Committees. Meg will distribute suggestions for standing committees to council members, who are asked to provide comments prior to the next meeting. The remainder of the by-laws document will be reviewed and voted on at the November 3 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Fund Raising Idea: Alison Greeley

Discussion tabled until the November 3 meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 8:00pm at Town Hall.**

Recorded and submitted by Alison Greeley, Secretary