

# **Ridgefield Arts Council**

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

November 3, 2009

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

Auxiliary member in attendance was Ryan Bell.

### **Minutes:**

October minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Anne distributed a Treasurer's report. Alison is still awaiting responses from Cultural Festival participants regarding the fees paid; to date, we are processing just one refund (which was required prior to the cancellation of the event).

The Treasurer's report was approved as amended. (The change is to a note regarding the Cultural Festival registration fee, which was listed as \$30 instead of \$35. This change does not impact the figures included in the report distributed.)

### **Update from the Chair:**

Nancy reported that Ryan Bell, the candidate to fill the position vacated by Noelle Carr, is scheduled to appear before the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

Nancy also notified the council that she had received notification from CCT regarding the Local Arts Agency Grant. RAC was awarded \$9,175 for this fiscal year (2009-2010) and \$9,175 for next fiscal year (2010-2011). Nancy has been notified that the grant program has been changed to a matching grant; RAC is now required to return any portion of the grant funds that have not been matched within the grant period. The grant period has also been adjusted and now runs from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 for the first year and October 1, 2010 through September 20, 2011 for the second year of the grant period.

Nancy reported that, according to John Cusano of the CCT, Ridgefield was ranked #2 among all the municipally chartered arts councils in the state during the grant review.

Emelie will prepare letters to our state politicians to thank them for making the grant possible and a press release announcing the award.

### **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 is working to reconcile the budget based on requests from participants with respect to their paid fees. She is awaiting four responses. To date, fourteen participants requested that the fee be applied to next year's event; six participants graciously donated the fee to the RAC.

Some RAC members hosted a table at Town Hall on two Saturdays in October (including Halloween); foul weather necessitated cancellation of the table on the other Saturdays. The Keeler Tavern joined RAC members on Halloween and a few local arts organizations provided brochures to be distributed at the table. Overall, RAC was able to raise some awareness of our mission, our website and some of the local arts organizations.

Ruth shared the comments she received from Barbara Manners, who was delighted to see the Arts Council as a presence at the Halloween Walk, promoting Ridgefield's arts organizations.

Alison will begin to work on securing a location for next year's event and planning will begin in the coming months.

**Dates for 2009 – 2010 Events:** Nancy Andrews

**Behind the Scenes Award:** Nancy has confirmed Thursday, May 13, 2010 with the Community Center.

**Networking Event:** Carolina has confirmed Friday, March 5, 2010 with the Aldrich.

**Cultural Festival:** Alison is focusing Saturday, October 2 and 9, 2010 for the event date and the rain date.

**By-laws:** Meg Collins Stoop, Emelie Howard

The council discussed the final sections of the by-laws drafted by Meg and Emelie. Changes will be made to the document, which Meg will circulate for review and vote. RAC members agreed to vote via email to approve the final draft of the document.

Nancy requests that all RAC members decide which committees they will serve on and notify Nancy as such prior to the December meeting.

**Website:** Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Ruth is discussing options with Stan for transforming sections of the website to allow RAC members greater and more timely control over the content on the site. She will keep the council updated as conversations progress.

Ruth also shared the success of her 'ask a friend' campaign to educate her friends and contacts about the RAC website and enroll them to receive the weekly newsletter. She encouraged other RAC members to do the same.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Fund Raising Idea:** Alison Greeley

Alison shared an idea to launch a '\$1 for the Arts' campaign during a targeted weekend this winter. She will prepare a more detailed proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 8:00pm at Town Hall.**

Recorded and submitted by Alison Greeley, Secretary