

# **Ridgefield Arts Council**

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

May 4, 2010

Committee members in attendance were Nancy Andrews, Anne Marcus, Alison Greeley, Carolina Fernandez, Paul Gervais, Kay Mayr, Khristee Rich and Ruth Wilder Feldman.

Suzanne Benton and Abby Walker of the Chekhov Festival attended as guests.

### **Minutes:**

April 2010 minutes were approved.

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

Anne provided an updated Treasurer's report.

To date, RAC has matched \$5,523 of the \$9,175 awarded by the CCT; an additional \$3,651 needs to be raised to match the grant in full.

### **Notes from the Chair:**

**Ryan Bell resignation:** Nancy shared Ryan's resignation letter.

**Article in paper re: open position:** Khristee prepared a press release announcing the open position on the council.

**Article re: new members Andrew Levine and Khristee Rich approved:** Ruth prepared an article introducing new members.

**Donation:** Nancy announced a donation from Edwin and Rita Comas.

**Other thoughts:** Nancy announced that she will step down as RAC Chair effective the end of May 31, 2010. Council members voted to approve Alison Greeley as incoming Chair and Khristee as incoming Secretary; their terms will begin in June.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Behind the Scenes:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 at the Community Center  
Chair: Paul Gervais  
Members: Nancy Andrews and Kay Mayr

Paul reported that the RCC now requires that we manage the set-up and break down of the chairs and tables.  
**All RAC members should be there by 6:00pm to assist.**

Paul reported that we have eleven honorees. Rudy Marconi is confirmed and his office is preparing the certificates. RMAC will provide the music. Paul will prepare a program; he will provide Khristee the write-ups for the follow-up article. Nancy is donating the alcohol. Alison will bring the piggy banks and her camera.

**Cultural Festival:** Saturday, October 2, 2010 in Ballard Park (Rain date: Sat, Oct. 16)

Chair: Alison Greeley

Members: Khristee Rich, Anne Marcus, Kay Mayr and Ruth Wilder Feldman

Alison reported that the committee hosted two brown bag lunches with local arts non-profit organizations last week to discuss working together to promote and celebrate Arts and Humanities Month and the Cultural Festival in October.

Outreach continues with scheduled meetings with HVAC and the Chamber of Commerce. Alison will also reach out to organizations that we unable to attend.

The email blast with registration form to go out by end of week.

**Communications:** Chair: Ruth Wilder Feldman

Members: Carolina Fernandez, Andrew Levine, Khristee Rich and Alison Greeley

Ruth provided a written report for members to review.

Work is underway with Mada Design to upgrade to a Content Management System. Ruth provided members with a screen image of the new homepage and navigation. Going forward, the individual committees will be responsible for managing the content on the pages related to their event.

The committee will focus on distributing postcards in the coming months.

Work is being done to organize our media mailing list by geography. Alison asked that RAC members send their media contacts to her for inclusion in our list.

At this time, Ruth continues to make homepage and calendar edits / updates only.

**Development:** Chair: Anne Marcus

Members: Nancy Andrews, Paul Gervais, Alison Greeley and Kay Mayr

Anne reported that we joined The Foundation Center, which maintains a database of funding opportunities. This is a service RAC can provide to local arts organizations.

Anne has hired Deborah Linke to assist with the appeal campaign letters. RAC members are asked to provide Deborah with names for the annual appeal letter.

The committee will work on scheduling a 'Celebrity Bartender' night at Toscana.

Alison will draft a letter to CCT requesting an extension for matching the grant funds.

**Networking Event:** Friday, March 5, 2010 at the Aldrich

Chair: Carolina Fernandez

Members: Ruth Wilder Feldman

No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Meserve Fund Grant:** Andrew Levine

Tabled; Andrew was unable to attend the meeting.

**Chekhov Festival Grant:** Nancy Andrews with guests Suzanne Benton and Abby Walker

RAC committee members shared a draft letter they had prepared to address the request for funding from the Chekhov committee and discussed why, given both our charter and the grant parameters, we were unable to approve their request for a \$500 donation from the RAC. We discussed some of the things we could and would do to support their festival, including promotion on the RAC website and calendar.

Suzanne shared a letter of support from Rudy Marconi. The Chekhov committee requested help with their closing event; Kay offered to help. They also mentioned that they were in need of host families to house the actors when they were in town. Kay suggested that they ask people to donate airline miles to help reduce the travel costs for the actors.

Suzanne and Abby both expressed their gratitude for any assistance the RAC could provide.

**Pepsi Refresh Grant:** Khristee Rich

Khristee shared information on the Pepsi Refresh Grant program. RAC members were asked to send Khristee ideas for an RAC grant application.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Aldrich Networking Event – May 15, 7-9pm:** Ruth Wilder Feldman

Paul, Carolina, Khristee, Nancy and Alison will be in attendance to man an RAC table. Alison will bring some piggy banks to enlist artists to paint one.

**Community Liaison:** Khristee Rich

Khristee withdrew this idea from discussion.

**Clarification on funding requests:** Nancy Andrews

**CHIRP:** Ruth will communicate with Barbara.

**Postcard distribution:** Will distribute via free methods.

**Arts booklet:** Tabled until November.

**Transportation to Ridgefield:** Alison will explore further. Ruth suggested that we look to do it four times a year based on calendar of events – ‘Arts weekends’

**HVCA at June Meeting:** Khristee Rich

Khristee confirmed that representatives from HVCA will attend the June RAC meeting.

**Mission Statement:** Khristee Rich

Tabled for June meeting.

**Cultural Panel at Library:** Khristee Rich

Khristee provided some notes from this meeting. She suggested that we develop getaways for the 52 Getaways feature on the CCT website. Khristee will share CCT contact information with the Chekhov committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 8:00pm at Town Hall.**

Recorded and submitted by Alison Greeley, Secretary