

Ridgefield Arts Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2009

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

Deborah Linke, an independent contractor engaged to work on the website and database, was also present.

Bill Markus, a member of the Ridgefield Economic Development Council, attended the meeting as a guest speaker.

Minutes:

April minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Ruth provided an updated budget report. She has requested a meeting with First Selectman Rudy Marconi to discuss the status of the matching grant funds.

Anne Marcus will become Treasurer when Ruth steps down at the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2009).

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Bill Markus, Ridgefield's Economic Development Council

Bill introduced himself and provided a brief overview of the Economic Development Council. The council, which consists of seven members and works closely with elected officials and the Chamber of Commerce, is charged with updating Ridgefield's Economic Development Plan (the state requires towns to update their plans every ten years). The council has contracted with Garnett Consulting Services to assist in the development of the plan. Together, they have identified focus areas which include Branchville, the Schlumberger property, Pond's Edge, an eco-friendly incubator and the Arts District.

Bill has been designated as the member of the Economic Development Council to work with the Arts Council and Rudy has asked him to work with RAC on the Arts District. RAC members are eager to work with members of the community to develop and Arts District and promote Ridgefield as a cultural destination, but there is some confusion regarding our role, current stakeholders and status of the project. Nancy and Bill agreed to meet jointly with Rudy to clarify.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Networking Event: Carolina Fernandez

April 30, The Aldrich, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Committee: Emelie Howard, Anne Marcus and Meg Collins-Stoop, Noelle Carr

Carolina reported that the event was a success and thanked all members for the team effort. The Aldrich and Elizabeth Zader were accommodating and very helpful.

Carolina reported that the event came in under budget. She is preparing a 'post-mortem' document to pass on to next year's organizer. Notes for next year will include suggestion that the invitation process be streamlined.

Committee members will send a note of thanks to the vendors they worked with to make the event possible.

Ruth and Deb provided an overview of the 'information cards' that were available when guests checked in. Deb will input information into our database.

Carolina will reach out to John Cusano for talking points for a follow-up article in The Press.

Behind the Scenes Award: Nancy Andrews
The Community Center, May 28, 2009, 7:00 pm

Nancy reported the results of the vote. Ruth suggested that we should be calling the nominees 'honorees' as we are honoring them all at the event.

Council members should be at the Community Center by 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 28.

Assignments:

Paul and Anne will greet guests at the door.

Alison will secure name tags.

Meg will get back to Nancy regarding music for the evening.

Kay will look into certificates for honorees.

Noelle will contact The Press.

Website Update: Stan Madaloni & Ruth Wilder-Feldman
Committee: Alison Greeley, Nancy Andrews

Ruth and Deb are preparing venue information for posting to the website.

Ruth shared a Google Analytics Dashboard and has noted that traffic to the site has increased.

Checkov Summer Festival: Anne Marcus

Anne reported that the organizer is still trying to confirm a date; she will provide an update at the next meeting.

Arts Fair / Fall 2009:

Tentative Date: October 3, 2009

Committee: Anne Marcus, Alison Greeley, Meg Collins-Stoop, Emelie Howard, Paul Gervais, Suzanne Enser-Ryan

Alison provided a history of the concept and briefly outlined the sub-committee's thoughts on an Arts Fair in town. Anne shared an advertisement for a similar event she had seen in Florida.

Anne reported that the Art Walk is willing to plan and promote these two events in tandem. Potential dates were discussed, and October 3 is the tentative date for the events. Ruth noted that this ties in beautifully with Americans for the Art's National Arts & Culture Month, which is October.

Committee will meet to begin planning.

NEW BUSINESS

RAC Pamphlet: Nancy Baldwin

Tabled until June meeting.

Connecticut Conference on Tourism:

Nancy distributed information on an upcoming Tourism conference on Wednesday, May 27. RAC members should let Nancy know if they are interested in attending.

Alison will reach out to Marion Roth to confirm that she is aware of the conference and to let her know that RAC members may be attending.

Writers and Authors Forum: Carolina Fernandez, Alison Greeley, Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Carolina, Alison & Ruth will speak separately regarding this event.

Channel 23 Presentations: Emelie Howard

Emelie circulated a proposal and will prepare a budget proposal.

Carolina suggested that we also explore new media as well.

Thoughts for 2009-2010: Nancy Baldwin

Nancy requested that RAC members develop ideas about what projects they would like to see RAC undertake in the coming year. Ideas should be emailed to Alison for compilation and distribution prior to the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 8:00pm** at Town Hall.

Recorded and submitted by Alison Greeley, Secretary