

# **Ridgefield Arts Council**

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

June 9, 2009

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

Auxiliary members in attendance were Suzanne Enser-Ryan and Ryan Bell.

### **Minutes:**

May minutes were approved.

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

Ruth provided an updated budget report. Some grant funds remain; Ruth has discussed the deadlines and restrictions with both John Cusano of CCT and John Mannuzza of the Town. Ruth reported that, despite the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, the CCT grant reported materials are not yet available.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Behind the Scenes Award:** Nancy Andrews

The Community Center, May 28, 2009, 7:00 pm

Nancy reported that, following this year's ceremony, she was asked to consider presenting two awards, based on age or years of service. The council agreed that adjustments to the awards and nomination process will be discussed by the sub-committee when planning begins for next year's event.

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

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

#### **Remaining Grant Funds:** Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Ruth reported that grant funds are still available and must be spent by June 30, 2009. The excess is due to the delayed delivery of grant funds, which were earmarked for advertising and the engagement of an independent contractor (neither of which could begin until funds were in hand). Funds should be directed towards activities that promote or support the website (as outlined in our grant request).

Council members voted to approve the following expenditures:

\$1,600 for the design & printing of a promotional postcard

\$200 for promotional magnets

\$100 for Constant Contact subscription

\$200 for promotional pens

**Arts Fair / Fall 2009:** Anne Marcus

Tentative Date: October 3, 2009

Committee: Alison Greeley, Meg Collins-Stoop, Emelie Howard, Paul Gervais, Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Anne will chair the committee. Council voted to move forward.

Alison will send an email to committee with meeting details.

**Website Update:** Stan Madaloni & Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Committee: Alison Greeley, Nancy Andrews

Ruth reported that venues have been added to the site and that they are exploring including a Google map of all arts locations in Ridgefield.

Stan presented an accounting of the over 180 man-hours that Mada has provided pro-bono since November 2008 to upgrade and maintain the site.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Networking luncheon, June 4:**

Nancy and Alison attended a networking luncheon hosted by the Chamber of Commerce at the Keeler Tavern on June 4. Alison reported that RAC has been asked to host the next gathering. Council members approved; Alison will follow-up with Marion Roth to discuss details.

**Meeting with Rudy Marconi:** Nancy Andrews

Nancy reported on a meeting with Rudy Marconi, attended by Anne Marcus, Kay Mayr and Ruth Wilder-Feldman. Nancy will schedule a standing, bi-monthly 'Arts Council Update' meeting with the First Selectman and notify council members who may wish to attend along with her.

**Dylan Dempsey request:** Nancy Andrews

Nancy shared a letter she received from a student requesting scholarship assistance. Council members agreed that RAC is currently not in a position to grant scholarships. The request sparked conversation and it was resolved that the developing a scholarship program will be explored in the future.

**Russell Associates / Contact Letter:** Nancy Andrews

Nancy reported that she received a letter of introduction from Russell Associates, a consulting firm referred by John Cusano of the CCT. The council will not engage them at this time.

**New Programs / Thoughts for the future:** Nancy Andrews

Council members approved the drafting of by-laws and development of standing committees for the Council. Meg and Emelie will prepare a draft for the next meeting.

Council members agreed to host three events next year: a large networking event, the Behind the Scenes Award ceremony and an Arts Fair. Adding a fourth event will be considered at a future meeting.

Emelie presented the specifics on the cable TV show. Both Meg and Ruth will take the class required by Comcast; Emelie will look into scheduling. Council will vote to move forward when we have received notification from CCT on the pending grant request.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2009** at **8:00pm** at Nancy Andrews' home.

Recorded and submitted by Alison Greeley, Secretary