

Ridgefield Arts Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2010

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

Guests present were Pat Hegnauer (Gilbert & Bennett Community Cultural Center), Randy Carboni (prospective member), Emelie Howard (auxiliary member and Michael Chekhov liaison), Abby Walker (Michael Chekhov Festival), and Nancy Andrews (former Chair and auxiliary member).

Minutes:

August minutes were approved.

Guest Updates:

Gilbert & Bennett Community Cultural Center

The Gilbert and Bennett School has been turned into a cultural center. They now have a baby grand piano. Meg Collins Stoop's choral group, Adesso Choral Society, will be using the space. On Wednesdays G & B has Artist Open Studio from 8 am to 4 pm, open for people to go and paint. G & B has a stage, auditorium, classrooms, full kitchen, green room, full A/V and ample parking. It seats about 200 people. They accept donations. Pat cannot attend the Executive Directors Roundtable on September 14, but Paul will represent Gilbert & Bennett for her.

Randy Carboni

Randy Carboni is a prospective member. He is a proprietor of a package production studio in NYC. He is a visual artist and is a member of many boards such as the Ridgefield Guild of Artists and the Carriage Barn Arts Center in New Canaan. He participates in Art Walk; he used to do theatre; and he plays the guitar. He expressed his interest in becoming a member.

Michael Chekhov International Theatre Festival

Emelie announced that this is her last year on the Michael Chekhov board and as a liaison. The dinner on Sunday was very successful. (A big thank you to Kay and Ruth for their help.) Next year they will do 3 to 4 mini-events throughout the year before the big festival. They would like to change the festival to October for National Arts & Humanities Month and have it after the Ridgefield Cultural Festival. They gave out financial prizes to the best actor and actress and director. Georgia and Russia were denied visas. Saturday's performance was great. Boston did the Bear in Russian. In the future during the year they may do a reading of Anton Chekhov, have a weekend training for students, and possibly do Spellbound again.

Treasurer's Report:

No official treasurer's report

We have \$1,500 from the town budget (our annual amount). We have about \$2,300 in the trust account and about \$7,400 in the grant account, so our total is about \$11,000. Our matching grant is about \$7,000.

Updates from Chair:

1. Prospective Member Update - Mary Louise O'Connell will become an auxiliary member. Deb Linke would like to join, but it seems that she cannot join us right now.
2. Anne Marcus' Resignation - Anne Marcus has resigned from treasurer and from being on the board. We will need to find a new treasurer soon.

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

Emelie Howard and Abby Walker offered to help.

We decided on a logo for the Ridgefield Cultural Festival. Paul will look into pricing for black t-shirts and for printing costs. Kay and Ruth are contacting artists and arranging scheduling.

It was approved for the Cultural Committee to spend more money for radio advertising in order to reach a larger audience and to address other goals such as drawing attention to our Web site and to create more general awareness.

Nancy is allowing us to use her dance floor. She will also purchase tape and we will reimburse her.

Randy suggested some online sites for promoting the event: Who Fish and American Towns.

Communications

Chair: Ruth Wilder Feldman

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

We have a schedule for our press releases for promoting the Ridgefield Cultural Festival and for our fundraiser at Toscana. We will send out a press release weekly for the next several weeks.

The Web site has been updated. We still need to add Pay Pal and a few other items, but it looks great and we should start spreading the word of our newly revamped Web site. We will announce on Twitter and Facebook. We will send out another Constant Contact mailing soon.

Behind the Scenes

Chair: Paul Gervais

Members: Kay Mayr

The date has been set for May 19 at the Community Center. We are reserving the Community Center from 5 to 10 pm. We will send the deposit soon. We will look into the possibility of having an event at the Keeler Tavern in the future.

Networking Event

Chair: Carolina Fernandez

Members: Ruth Wilder Feldman

Carolina picked two possible dates in March for the next networking event, Friday, March 4 or March 11 at The Aldrich Museum. She is waiting to hear from Elizabeth Zeder about these dates and will let us know soon.

Development Report

Chair: none at this time

Members: Paul Gervais, Alison Greeley and Kay Mayr

The appeal letters and thank you letters are on hold. We still need to work out details with the Celebrity Bartending Night at Toscana's on October 14 from 6 to 9 pm.

Old Business

Guidelines for posting

There are a few options where arts organizations could post flyers in town. We need to decide which would be the best location. Alison brought in plans of a possible kiosk design that looked great.

New Business

Western CT Youth Orchestra

A lot of the kids who are a part of the youth orchestra are not from Ridgefield. We would like to share info with the parents about what is happening in Ridgefield. We should also get in their program.

High School Seniors - Interns

Ruth brought in a form to recruit high school seniors to help us. We could use help for the Cultural Festival.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:30pm at Town Hall.**

Recorded and submitted by Khristee Rich, Secretary