

Ridgefield Arts Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2011

Council members in attendance were Els Carboni, Randy Carboni, Carolina Fernandez, Andrew Levine, Maxime Francis, Kay Mayr and Alison Greeley.

Auxiliary Members in attendance were Kristina Kelly, Darla Shaw and Barbara Cmiel.

Guests in attendance were Sandy Carpenter, our intern from Ridgefield H.S..

Prospective New Member:

Daniele Hampton was in attendance, expressing interest in joining the Arts Council as a new member. She submitted a bio.during the meeting..

Minutes: May Minutes were approved with changes.

Treasurer's Report:

Els reported on the balances in the accounts. The Cultural Festival in October is the only event currently planned for 2011. We will have \$4,249 in funds that need to be spent as per our grant requirement. If we have a surplus of funds remaining after reviewing Cultural Festival expenses, we will need to have other outlets for spending the grant money. The idea of contributing funds to the Conference on Creativity that is being sponsored .by the Aldrich Museum and the Ridgefield Library was raised and received a positive response from in an informal poll of those present.

Notes from the Chair:

The CT Commission of Arts and Tourism is in the process of reviewing and updating their grant reporting process, which has led to delays in our reporting on the 2010 grant we received. At this time we have submitted a report on 2010. We will submit a request to extend the duration of our 2011 grant until the end of the calendar year. We did this last year as well as it allows for us to fully account for expenses resulting from the Cultural Festival, held on the first weekend of October. Normally, the grant period ends as of September 30, 2011. Alison is preparing a written BOS Annual Report that will be delivered on June 15, 2011 at the next BOS meeting. She invited council members to attend that BOS meeting.

Candidate Introduction and Interview:

Daniele Hampton was in attendance, expressing interest in joining the Arts Council as a new member. She submitted a bio and made a statement about why she wanted to join the Council.

Committee Reports:

Communications

Chair: Randy Carboni

Members: Carolina Fernandez, Alison Greeley

Randy reported that our Facebook page is now free and clear of Kristee Rich's account .and that all updates to the page can be made easily by RAC members. Postcards with information about the Council have been designed and printed and distribution to key town areas like the Chamber of Commerce and town B&Bs has

started. Additional locations, like real estate offices, banks, etc were suggested and members took cards for follow up on distribution. Randy also redesigned the Council stationery and the design was approved after a motion was called. Paul will get quotes on printing prices for the stationery and for envelopes as well.

Development Report

Chair: Alison Greeley (temporarily)

Members: Paul Gervais, Alison Greeley, Andrew Levine

Alison agreed to draft a new fund raising letter that could go out to people who previously donated to RAC and for those council members who wanted to distribute a personalized request for support. The council discussed several fundraising options including an October event at Toscana and another Salon event, to be held at Carolina's house in the fall. Carolina, Andrew, Els, Daniele and Kristina all volunteered to serve on a committee to produce the Salon event.

Behind the Scenes' Honors: Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 7pm at the Community Center

Chair: Paul Gervais

Members: Kay Mayr

The Council debriefed the Behind the Scenes event and the overall consensus was that the event was a success for those honored and for the numerous community organizations that participate in the ceremony. It was also noted that producing the event as a full out team effort contributed to a sense of team building and confidence as the Council gets ready to move on to produce the Cultural Festival in October.

Cultural Festival: Saturday, October 1, 2011 in Ballard Park (Rain date: Sat, Oct. 15)

Chair: Alison Greeley

Members: Kay Mayr, Darla Shaw, Andrew Levine, Dara Quinn, Paul Gervais

No new news was reported at this meeting. Early registration for the Festival ends on 6/15. The committee responsible for planning the Festival has been meeting regularly, creating a production schedule and dividing responsibilities amongst committee members.

Summerfest 2011

Sandy Carpenter and Maxime Francis agreed to man a tent so that the Council could have a presence at Summerfest.

Old Business:

HVCA Collaborative Destination Marketing

Lisa Scails of the HCVA is moving forward with the collaborative marketing project. The Council feels that our involvement with this effort is consistent with the kind of collaborative and support activities that the CCT favors for organizations like RAC.

2011 PR Idea – *on hold*

Community Sign Board – *on hold*

New Business:

Creativity Conference

Andrew, Alison and Carolina are all involved with the planning of the Creativity Conference. After a brief discussion of the opportunities for visibility that the Conference presents, there was an overall consensus that the RAC should consider co-producing the event, scheduled for November and contributing as much as \$1500.

Summer Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled for July 12 and August 2. Council members are asked to do their best to attend.

Meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 7:30pm. at Town Hall.**

Recorded and submitted by Andrew Levine, Council Secretary