

Ridgefield Arts Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2011

Council members in attendance were Els Carboni, Randy Carboni, Carolina Fernandez, Paul Gervais and Alison Greeley.

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

Guests in attendance were Sandy Carpenter and Maxime Francis, a prospective member.

Appointment of new Secretary:

Council members voted to appoint Andrew Levine Secretary.

Minutes: Minutes were approved with changes.

Treasurer's Report:

Els reported on the balances in the accounts. Alison reminded the committee that the town's fiscal year ends on June 30, 2011 and all town budget expenses must be settled by June 30.

Notes from the Chair:

Alison reported that the first part of the CCT LAA Grant report is due on May 25, 2011. The committee discussed some of the numbers required for the report. Alison will complete the financial section and send to Els for review.

Candidate Introduction and Interview:

Maxime Francis shared information about her background and interest in joining the Arts Council. She had met separately with Alison to discuss RAC's programs and volunteer needs.

Committee Reports:

Communications

Chair: Randy Carboni

Members: Carolina Fernandez, Alison Greeley

Paul will begin to post updates to RAC's Facebook page and will look into Twitter.

Council members voted to print 500 of the promotional postcards prepared by Randy.

Randy will redesign RAC's stationary and have copies ready for review and approval at the next meeting. Paul will research pricing for printing.

Development Report

Chair: Alison Greeley (temporarily)

Members: Paul Gervais, Alison Greeley, Andrew Levine

Alison reported that RAC received an individual donation. No other news to report at this time.

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

Chair: Paul Gervais

Members: Kay Mayr

Thirteen honorees have been identified. Wendy Lionetti will prepare the citations to be presented by Rudy Marconi at the ceremony.

Paul reported that the food will be provided by Nature's Temptations; we are very grateful for their support of this function. Liberta's is confirmed.

Paul will reach out to all organizations with an honoree to reconfirm the details of the evening.

Council members are asked to arrive at 6pm.

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

Alison circulated an event overview for the committees' information. The initial email blast was sent to the RAC mailing list. Calls for entries also went to HVCA and CAFC. Alison encouraged the committee to reach out to artists, organizations and businesses that may want to participate; she will send all committee members the registration information so they can send to their contacts directly.

There will be a greater focus on having items available for purchase at this year's event. Alison reported that the committee is working on a plan to include food for purchase as well.

Networking Event: 2012 Date TBD

Chair: Carolina Fernandez

Members: Andrew Levine, Randy Carboni

Carolina reported that the final invoices are being reconciled for this event.

Old Business:

CCT Conference

Alison and Dara attended the conference, which was mandatory for all CCT LAA grant recipients. Alison reported on the progress of the CCT's efforts to build a state-wide network of local arts agencies to share information and work to limit duplication of efforts. RAC will continue to coordinate and work with the two regional organizations that cover Ridgefield, the Housatonic Valley Cultural Alliance (HVCA) and the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County (CAFC).

Venue Collaboration Update – Carolina Fernandez

Carolina has no update at this time; will reach out to them again.

Constant Contact & Foundation Center Renewals

Alison reported that the Ridgefield Library has become a Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center. They now have access to the databases and members of their staff have been trained to help people utilize the tools available. Council members agreed that with this development, RAC will not renew their subscription.

Council members voted to approve the renewal of the one-year subscription to Constant Contact.

HVCA Collaborative Destination Marketing

There is no news to report. Alison will continue to represent RAC in these discussions.

2011 PR Idea – *on hold*

Community Sign Board – *on hold*

New Business:

Creativity Conference

Alison reported that she was invited to a meeting with Suzanne Ryan of the Aldrich and Laurie McGavin Bachmann and Leslie Lambton of the Library to discuss plans for a Creativity Conference, tentatively planned for November 2011. Carolina offered to be RAC’s liaison for this project. Alison will notify the committee.

Civil War Celebration – 2013

Alison reported that Mary Rindfleisch of the Ridgefield Library shared that plans are developing for a Civil War celebration in 2013. The Library, the Keeler Tavern, the Historical Society and the Graveyard Committees are currently involved. Mary will continue to provide updates to RAC via Alison.

Summer Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled for July 12 and August 2. Council members are asked to come to June meeting with vacation schedules to determine viability of meetings.

Chambers Army / Navy store

Alison shared details of an inquiry she received about making use of the vacant store on Danbury Road. Paul had looked into it previously and offered to make a couple of calls to determine interest in temporary usage for the arts.

Meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7:30pm. at Town Hall.**

Recorded and submitted by Alison Greeley, Chair