

# Ridgefield Arts Council

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2011

Council members in attendance were Paul Gervais, Alison Greeley, Kay Mayr, Danielle Hampton, Maxime Francis, Dara Polenghi-Quinn, Randy Carboni, Els Carboni, Kristina Kelly and Andrew Levine.

Auxiliary Members in attendance: Barbara Cmiel

Minutes: September minutes were approved.

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

Alison reported that our request for an extension of our large grant was approved. Els Carboni took us through the treasurer's report. Income from the Cultural Festival will likely come in at about \$2,000. While expenses will exceed the current amount of \$2308, we will be far under the budgeted figure of \$5,275.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Communications**

Chair: Randy Carboni

Members: Carolina Fernandez, Alison Greeley

Randy reported that there was a reoccurrence of the malware detection by Google but that the issue was once again quickly resolved by Google. Maxime .is doing a fine job updating our facebook and twitter pages and there has been a noticeable jump in people 'liking' our facebook page.

#### **Development Report**

Chair: Alison Greeley (temporarily)

Salon Committee: Andrew, Carolina, Daniele and Kristina

The salon on November 6 at Kay Mayr's house will feature Brazilian jazz, tapas and wine. We will have a trio that has recorded together under the direction of Arthur Lipner, a fine jazz mallet player The cost will be \$600 for the concert of approximately one hour. The goal is to have 40 audience members at 75/pp, which would yield 3,000 in gross revenue and approximately \$1500 in net revenue. We will move Tor Sporre, a gifted private chef to the winter salon at Carolina's house, scheduled for February, also featuring classical chamber music...

Toscana Fundraiser – October 27: Maxime, Paul, Kristina and Daniele

The event is coming together nicely and will be a costumed affair where guests and RAC members will dress as their favorite work of art or artist.

Submitted for approval at October 4, 2011 meeting

**Cultural Festival:** Saturday, October 15, 2011 in Ballard Park

Chair: Alison Greeley

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

We debriefed our decision making process for call off the original date of October 1<sup>st</sup> and Alison expressed the view that we can learn from the experience how to better delineate the decision making process for cancellations and communications. There have been one or two requests for refunds by participants who are unable to attend the 15<sup>th</sup>. As our materials for the CF did not specifically state that no refunds would be given, we are inclined to either, agree to a refund in the small number of cases where a request has been made or, 2. Offer the participant a chance to offset the cost of next year's event through a credit. We will be replacing two MC's for the event and a few volunteers for stage setup due to the cancellation. We also expect that our scripts will likely need some revision because of changes in performers availability, but these shouldn't be extensive. We feel strongly that in the event of bad weather we will do everything we can to allow the festival to proceed as planned.

#### **Other Business:**

Member dues are up for both the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce and the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County. We plan to renew our memberships in both organizations and decided that we will most likely keep the same level of membership in the CAFC.

#### **Creativity Conference**

Barbara Cmiel offered to make inquiries about possible sponsorships from Boehringer Ingalls. Regular meetings continue to be held every two weeks in addition to budget meetings that are being handled by a subcommittee. The Ridgefield Library and Aldrich Museum are fully engaged in the process and are dividing a number of key task areas like online and in person registration, bookkeeping, speaker contracts and travel arrangements, (all being handled by the Library) marketing and day-of line producing (which will be handled by the Aldrich).

#### **Executive Roundtable**

Alison reported that made an effort to get feedback from participants of the Executive Roundtable to determine the value of the meetings as well as information on how to increase that value to members. This service seems to represent an opportunity for the Council to provide tangible resources to its constituent members in the form of education, speakers, fundraising information, etc.

Meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2011 at 7:30pm. at Town Hall  
Recorded and submitted by Andrew Levine, Council Secretary