

Ridgefield Arts Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2011

Council members in attendance were Carolina Fernandez, Paul Gervais, Alison Greeley, Kay Mayr, Danielle Hampton and Andrew Levine.

There were no Auxiliary Members in attendance.

Minutes: August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Els sent along copies of the latest budget with income to date from the upcoming Arts Festival. Our current "matching funds obligation stands at \$3,488.02. Alison noted that she has not formally heard back on our request for an extension to spend and match monies from our State grant, but that John Cusano assured her that there was not anything to be concerned about.

Committee Reports:

Communications

Chair: Randy Carboni

Members: Carolina Fernandez, Alison Greeley

Randy reported (through Alison) that all was status quo in Communications except for what appeared to be a random occurrence that caused our site to go down briefly. It has been restored with no negative repercussions.

Development Report

Chair: Alison Greeley (temporarily)

Salon Committee: Andrew, Carolina, Daniele and Kristina

We've discussed doing a salon on November 6 at Kay Mayr's house. 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. The Sunday afternoon gathering will include a jazz trio as the one hour focal point. Food will be prepared by Daniele Hampton's partner, Tor Sporre and we will attempt to coordinate the meal with the music that is being played.

We also are planning a second Salon, most likely in March, at the home of Carolina Fernandez. The music of choice for that gathering will be classical chamber music.

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

Submitted for approval at October 4, 2011 meeting

It is looking like this fundraiser will have a Halloween theme. We will market the event right after the Arts Festival.

We will likely integrate the ceramic pigs into both the Toscana event and the Cultural Festival and the idea of stuffing the pigs with a hidden raffle prize was floated by Paul and, amid the usual pig jokes, heartily endorsed.

Daniele Hampton offered to use her condo in West Palm Beach as a possible prize and we will continue to discuss that possibility.

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

The Arts Festival committee met prior to the full RAC meeting to discuss progress on assigned tasks, including reach outs to town organizations, final decisions on Emcee's, balloons and updates to marketing materials and PR. The committee came to a decision to use RKE for sound after looking at a number of quotes and considering a generous offer from RMAC to provide use of their recently purchased equipment. Alison is preparing an email to go out to all participants with detailed info on logistics for the day of the event. We currently have 34 registered participants who are all being tracked on a spreadsheet that Alison handed out. It charts whether they have a booth, are performing, or both. Rain date availability is also listed. There are a number of 'pending' participants as well and we are doing follow up with them and expect to be registering participants up until the last moments, pending availability.

Networking Event: Date TBD

Chair: Carolina Fernandez

We are looking at a Friday in late March and Carolina is inquiring about availability at the Aldrich Museum.

Behind the Scenes' Honors: Date TBD

Chair: Paul Gervais

Members: Kay Mayr

Nothing new to report

Other Business:

Our membership with the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County is up for renewal and we will opt to renew at a higher level, opening up more access the CAFC resources.

Creativity Conference

Dates are April 27-28, 2012 and events will take place primarily at the Aldrich Museum. New executive director, Alyson Baker has been brought into the conversation and is enthusiastic about the cross-disciplinary approach that is being taken. There will be opening and closing keynote addresses, panels, a series of creative conversations and several hands-on workshops. The Ridgefield Guild of Artists will host a closing reception at their facility. Speakers, panelists, moderators and workshop leaders are being approached, fund raising is ongoing and content moving towards a firmer state. RAC will be credited on all marketing materials as a funder of the conference, continues to have a presence on the planning committee through the involvement of both Carolina and Andrew. Maxime Francis has provided several important connections to potential participants from the business sector, including Starwood Hotels, GE and others.

Taste of Danbury, September 10 / HVCA table:

Alison reported that HVCA will host a table at the Taste of Danbury on September 10. They will distribute information for us if we get it to them prior to the event.

Meeting adjourned for Executive Session.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:30pm. at Town Hall.

Recorded and submitted by Andrew Levine, Council Secretary