

# **Ridgefield Arts Council**

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

April 7, 2009

Committee members in attendance were Nancy (Baldwin) Andrews, Alison Greeley, Ruth Wilder-Feldman, Noelle Carr, Paul Gervais, Emelie Howard and Anne Marcus.

Auxiliary member in attendance was Suzanne Enser-Ryan. Deborah Linke, an independent contractor engaged to work on the website and database, was also present.

Nancy opened the meeting with a welcome to RAC's newest members: Paul Gervais, Emelie Howard and Anne Marcus.

### **Minutes:**

March minuets were approved.

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

Ruth provided an updated budget report. She has contacted the First Selectman's office regarding the status of the matching grant funds in order to provide the most recent information in the grant application to CCT. She is awaiting a response.

Ruth notified the council that she would like to step down as Treasurer and asked members to consider taking on the role. She will continue to act as Treasurer until the end of the fiscal year.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **LAA Conference: March 24, 2009:**

Alison and Ruth provided a brief overview of the conference. Alison reported that the key takeaways from the day were that 1.) CCT views LAAs as their local extensions into communities and that we should be working more closely with them and 2.) networking and partnership among LAAs is high encouraged by CCT. There were a number of engaging and experienced representatives from around the state and Alison suggested that we begin to reach out to the network. Ruth distributed conference notes and suggested that we meet separately to discuss some of the interesting ideas we heard from LAAs around the state.

#### **LAA Grant FY2010:** Alison Greeley, Nancy Andrews and Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Alison provided an update on the grant application process. The application is due on April 13, 2009.

#### **Website Update:** Stan Madaloni & Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Committee: Alison Greeley, Nancy Andrews

Ruth reported that the new calendar is up and running. She outlined the new technological capabilities. The calendar program is the same one used by the NY Times and we should not encounter the same problems with ongoing service and maintenance. Self-publishing is still available; as Ruth becomes more familiar with the program, she will begin to train local arts groups on inputting data. She and Deb are currently focusing on populating the calendar with information through June in time for the April 30 event.

**Annual Networking Event:** Carolina Fernandez  
April 30, The Aldrich, 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Committee: Emelie Howard, Anne Marcus and Meg Collins-Stoop

Carolina was unable to attend the meeting; she phoned Alison with some follow-up items regarding invitations.

There was some discussion that the name of the event was causing confusion regarding the purpose of the event. ‘All-artists’ may be revisited next year.

Deb prepared ‘indication of interest’ cards; people can request to hear from us on the website or sign up for our mailing list.

Emelie continues to work to get volunteers. She has begun the process of getting RAC on the NCL’s approved list of charities, but the process will not be completed in time for this event.

Invitation distribution was discussed and will be resolved by the committee.

**Writers and Authors Forum:** Carolina Fernandez, Alison Greeley, Ruth Wilder-Feldman

Carolina not present; discussion tabled until the next meeting.

**Behind the Scenes Award:** Nancy Andrews  
The Community Center, May 28, 2009, 7:00 pm

Nancy reported that some organizations declined to nominate a volunteer this year. Further discussion regarding the response and how to adjust the program for next year were tabled until after this year’s event.

Nominations are in and council members will vote.

**Email Blast:** Alison Greeley

Alison reported that she sent the first RAC email blast to our current mailing list on March 30. Future editions will be sent on an as-needed basis.

**Checkov Summer Festival:** Anne Marcus

Anne reported that the organizer is looking for a professional fundraiser; if anyone would like to refer someone, please speak to Anne. The committee is hosting a fundraising concert in April. The events are still planned for the weekend of August 15.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RMAC: Linda Haines:**

Nancy introduced Linda Haines, who updated RAC on RMAC's progress. RMAC has just celebrated its second anniversary and continues to work towards its goal of providing a performance arts center for kids in middle and high school. They are currently working with the Greater Danbury Resource Center to develop a strategic plan and continue to focus on fund raising efforts. The facility will seat 200 people and will be dedicated primarily to student productions (on 'dark' nights, there may be opportunities for adults to use the space). Linda shared current plans for the facility and answered council members' questions about the organization and its goals.

**Logo from Ryan Bell:**

Nancy distributed the logo produced by Ryan for council members' information.

**Economic Development Commission:**

Nancy reported that Bill Marcus contacted her regarding a Ridgefield Arts District; he will be attending our next meeting.

**Arts Fair / Fall 2009:** Suzanne Enser-Ryan, Alison Greeley, Noelle Carr, Meg Collins-Stoop, Emelie Howard

Tabled until March meeting.

**RAC Pamphlet:** Nancy Baldwin

Nancy would like to discuss creating an Arts Council pamphlet. Further discussion tabled until March meeting.

**Channel 23 Presentations:** Emelie Howard

Tabled until March meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 8:00pm** at Town Hall.

Recorded and submitted by Alison Greeley, Secretary