

Ridgefield Arts Council Meeting August 7, 2017
Minutes Taken by Hilary Aronow

Meeting called to order 7:38pm

RAC Members in attendance: Mark Meachem, Alison Greeley, Vincent Conyers, Joshua Fischer, Hilary Aronow, Amy Casey arrived late
Absent: Paul Gervais, Wendy Mitchell, Jennifer DiLaura

MINUTES

Alison made motion to approve minutes from last meeting-all approved with correction to Hilary's last name.

TREASURER'S REPORT-ALISON

We finished with \$9.59 in our budget and \$4191 in our separate account, totaling \$4201.37 at the end of the fiscal year (resets 7/1) with \$1500 budget from town. This brings our current total to \$5691.78.

Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County membership -Alison recommends that we replace our membership type to a town one so Rudy and the EDC can also be involved, which is a price difference of around \$50.

Mark made a motion to approve it and all voted unanimously to approve motion to change to a town membership.

ARTS & BUSINESS CONFERENCE-MARK & JENNIFER

A copy of the presentation was given to EDC and First Selectman and local representatives were also given a summary of the meeting.

The major take away from it was the economic impact of what the arts do for Fairfield County. For every arts event, each attendee brings an average of \$30 to the town (outside of the cost of the ticket).

Most impactful for towns that were collaborating with each other and we need to find ways to collaborate with neighboring areas.

SCHOOL THEATER SPACE-ALISON

Alison will schedule a meeting and is hoping to have John Devine and Rudy attend along with reps from the schools and arts groups to start discussing access to the theater space.

LAMPPOST BANNERS-ALISON

The new policy has been written, but it needs tweaking. We need to make it clear it's just for big events, festivals etc, not a single day Gala or event. Currently scheduled are ArtWalk, Chekov Festival, and Downtown Ridgefield shop local for the holidays.

We want to create generic place holders for times when nothing else is up that say we're a destination for arts and culture and think a good idea will be to offer arts nonprofits an opportunity to pay and have their logo included since they combined are what makes us an arts and cultural destination.

Josh will work on the design and the Arts Council will reach out and offer organizations to pay for them to help defray the cost of having them made.

WEBSITE

No changes or updates.

Josh needs info, photos and copy-something that describes the council a little better and what we do-i.e. Generator, EDR, Behind the Scenes and photos

We need to provide links to other nonprofit organizations and ask them to link to ours
Ridgefieldartscouncil.org

GENERATOR

9/25 possible date

Venue Whip Salon and Hilary will ask Amy Pal to provide one presenter, possibly the artist showing in the gallery at the time of the event

Other guest speakers TBD.

NEXT MEETING

September 11th

ARTS SCHOLARSHIP-AMY

Amy is pursuing creating an Arts Scholarship for a Ridgefield resident. She discussed wanting to tie it into our mission statement and have it come back to our community. Lots of fine points to hammer out like when it's given, eligibility, length of residence, etc. The source of the funding will be the Arts Council discretionary fund for now-later with fundraising and donations. Next steps is Amy will talk to Rudy about getting approval.

Meeting adjourned.