

Town of Ridgefield- Ridgefield Arts Council Meeting

February 2, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex Conference Room

66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield Connecticut

Minutes taken by Danielle Roth

Present: Colleen Cash, Andrew Okrongly, Joe Collin, Raje Kaur, Tracey Bryggman, Dani Roth, Jennifer Dineen, Pamme Jones, Amy Casey

Excused: Hilary Aronow, Joshua Fischer

Guest: Mike McNamara, Barb Jennes, Barrett Jones

MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:35pm. Raje made a motion to call the meeting to order. Tracey seconded.

MINUTES

Jennifer made a motion to approve minutes from the January 2022 meeting and Pamme seconded. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Andrew reiterated he is no longer an official member of the RAC but will continue to be available to consult during the transition period. Andrew shared a simplified template of the Treasurer's report and requested the Council review and provide edits.

AGENDA ITEMS

Old Business

Our Town/NEA Grant

- The council reviewed the grant and discussed the execution, projects, and parties that could potentially be involved. Next step is to schedule a meeting ahead of our March meeting with all interested parties to discuss if and how the RAC can help facilitate and support.

Group Updates:

Make Music Day

- Jennifer and Pamme provided a recap of the Make Music Day Kick-Off Conference and shared new ideas for events for this year.
- An RHS student has expressed interest in joining the RAC as an intern for Make Music Day.
- Jennifer will provide information on upcoming meetings and requested council members reach out and express their interest and involvement.

Scholarship

- The council discussed potentially combining a Scholarship Fundraiser and Behind the Scenes Honors, potential venue/date options, and a general timeline.
- Amy will book May 15th for the Scholarship Fundraiser at Nod Hill Brewery. Rain Date of May 22nd. The council was encouraged to share ideas for fundraising for the scholarship in coming weeks.

Behind the Scenes

- Pamme and Amy volunteered to organize the event this year. Pamme will reach out to potential venues.

Banners

- The council discussed a need to ensure continuity with banner hardware management. The Chair requested that council members notify the RAC email should any banners need maintenance.

Our Artists/Our Schools

- RAC has three partnerships on the docket with various RPS teachers and local artists this winter and spring. Great collaborations are underway.

Generator

- The group provided an overview of the target timeline, date, theme, and potential artists for the next Generator event tentatively scheduled for March 9th.

Marketing

- Tracey has volunteered to spearhead the quarterly brochure organizational process and will meet with Colleen to outline further details.
- The marketing group will schedule a meeting in the coming weeks.

Grants/Funding

- Discussion was had regarding ARPA funding and the need for the RAC to be part of the conversation on behalf of the non-profit arts organizations. The council's

hope is to facilitate larger discussions and create synergy between the ECDC and RAC going forward.

- Pamme noted that she would recuse herself from any forthcoming discussions regarding ARPA funding.

EDR

- **EDR Survey Review:** Jennifer provided data from last year's EDR survey and the council discussed ways to implement the feedback received.

RAC 2022 Planning

- Hilary Aronow has submitted her resignation from the RAC.
- There are now two vacant administrative roles on the council: Secretary and Treasurer.
- The Chair provided a brief overview of each of the roles and will send a list of expected duties to the council to review. Upon reviewing the duties, the Chair asked that any members interested in the position of Secretary, submit a formal letter of interest by February 16th. Any members interested in the position of Treasurer, should submit a formal letter of interest by March, date TBD.
- Discussion was had regarding the qualities and skill sets the Council is seeking in new RAC members.

New Business

CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant Plan

- RAC has received the first installment of the grant.
- The Chair requested that the RAC members leading a group/event consider the monetary amount and bring forth any proposals on where to allocate the funds to the March meeting.

Witness Stone Poets Overview

- Guest, Barb Jennes, briefed the council on the event (held on Saturday, April 23rd) hosted at the Meeting House and co-sponsored by the Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield Historical Society, and Keeler Tavern.
- The council brainstormed ways to support and promote the event.

Interview of RAC Candidate Mike McNamara

- Mike expressed his interest in joining the RAC and shared ways he would like to contribute. Mike reiterated his need to recuse himself from topics related to the Scholarship, RSO, and Our Artists, Our Schools due to his affiliation with RPS and his board membership on RSO. Mike answered all questions from RAC members.

Executive Session

- Amy made a motion to approve Mike McNamara's candidacy. Jennifer seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm following a motion made by Dani and seconded by Joe. All approved.

The next meeting will be 3/2/2022.