

Town of Ridgefield- Ridgefield Arts Council Meeting

April 6, 2022 at 7:30 PM

**Town Hall Small Conference Room
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut**

Minutes taken by Danielle Roth

Present: Colleen Cash, Tracey Bryggman, Danielle Roth, Jennifer Dineen, Mike McNamara, Raje Kaur, Joe Collin, Amy Casey, Pamme Jones

Excused: Joshua Fischer

MEETING TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Pamme made a motion to approve minutes from the March 2022 meeting with two previously discussed edits. Jennifer seconded. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- All donations and door charges made at the recent Generator event have been deposited. There have been no major changes or updates.
- Update on donations to the RAC: In the future, general donations can be given in the form of a check made out directly to the RAC. Friends of Ridgefield should only be used for corporate matching donations.
- The council will look into how the RAC can receive electronic donations going forward.
- Further discussion was had regarding how to allocate funds received from the CT Humanities Grant.

AGENDA ITEMS

Old Business

Make Music Day Update

- Registration is now live and open for artists and venues to sign up to participate.
- Make Music Day committee chairs shared the need for a concentrated effort in securing venues and will reach out to RAC members to confirm who is available to assist in that effort.

- At the most recent ECDC meeting, MMD committee chairs requested their support specifically in marketing both a kick-off MMD event on Saturday (6/18) as well official MMMD on Tuesday (6/21).
- Discussion was had regarding fostering collaboration between the RAC, ECDC, Downtown Ridgefield, InRidgefield, and the Chamber of Commerce to help promote the event town-wide.

Behind the Scenes Honors

- We have chosen Wednesday, June 8th as the date of the event. Discussion was had regarding announcing and organizing the nomination process. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Scholarship Event

- There is a tentatively scheduled fundraiser event for the RAC Scholarship on May 22nd. Location and event is still TBD pending additional discussions. The council brainstormed how to improve and grow the scholarship fundraising and offerings going forward.

Banner Discussion

- Several council members volunteered to adjust the banners placement on Main Street. Members will set a date in the coming weeks.

Generator Update

- The March Generator's theme of "healing arts" was inspiring and incredibly impactful. The council discussed potentially planning all Generators for the year in hopes that it will build momentum and attendance. It would allow room for more strategic and intentional selection of venue, artists, schedule and themes.

2022 Budget/ARPA Update

- The RAC Budget is flat for the year.
- May 18th will be the Board of Selectmen meeting where the RAC and ECDC will put forth a final recommendation for ARPA allocations for our non-profit arts organizations. Over the next few weeks, the RAC and ECDC will be in further communication with all non-profit arts organizations to further outline and solidify the final request.

New Business

External Collaborations & Marketing

- The council discussed its current media/marketing parameters and a need to do a formal review of our media and marketing policy.

Ukraine Discussion

- The council members shared unanimous personal support for the situation in Ukraine
- As part of a broader discussion, the council discussed its need to endeavor to ensure public sponsorships and statements align with its core mission
- The council discussed an opportunity for the art and culture organizations to discuss the initiative at a forthcoming EDR
- Colleen made a motion that the council not sponsor or issue statements or public positions on topics widely outside of its core mission. Raje seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm following a motion made by Dani and seconded by Jennifer. All approved.

The next meeting will be 5/4/2022.