

Town of Ridgefield- Ridgefield Arts Council Meeting

November 2, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Town Hall Small Conference Room

400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut

Minutes taken by Tracey Bryggman

Present: Tracey Bryggman, Amy Casey, Joe Collin, Jennifer Dineen, Joshua Fischer, Pamme Jones, Raje Kaur, Mike McNamara

Excused: Colleen Cash, Danielle Roth

Guests: Geoffrey Morris, Gary Singer

MEETING TO ORDER

Jennifer made a motion to call the meeting to order. Amy seconded. The meeting was called to order at 7:39pm.

MINUTES

Pamme made a motion to approve minutes from the October 2022 meeting. Joe seconded. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- No changes to last month's report
- Treasurer needs final MMD invoice to close out that line

Old Business

Town Budget & Humanities Grant Spending

- Detailed list of marketing materials approved at prior meeting was presented and order will be made for those items. This, along with the MMD expenditures already submitted, will satisfy the council's spending requirements for the 2022 CT Humanities Grant.
- Council will apply for 2023 CT Humanities grant with the purpose of a website revamp and RAC evergreen banners. Goal of website revamp is to create a hub for support, information, and connection for all the orgs. Deadline for application is 11/4.

Behind the Scenes Honors, Nancy Award, Cultural District Award Discussion

- ECDC will present their Cultural District Award at the next Behind the Scenes Honors event, May 11, 2023. They will present 2 awards, one for 2022 and one for 2023. They will share some expenses of the event, and provide some logistical support.
- The history of the Nancy Comstock award was presented. Further detail and focus for the award was discussed.
- Timeline and planning for BTS 2023 was discussed. Council plans to begin the process of nominations and event planning in January 2023

New Member Recruitment Discussion

- Council discussed the need to be specific with skill sets needed to round out the team. A subgroup will create a list detailing the various events we host annually and what is involved. This will help set expectations for new members, and allow them to more accurately decide what they can participate in.
- Areas identified as “help needed” are marketing/social media, website maintenance, and event planning (Behind the Scenes, Generators, Make Music Day, Music and Art in the Park).
- Received significant interest from potential new members following a town-wide notice that was sent out. Next steps are to set up meetings with interested parties.

ARPA Update

- Final meeting to vote to approve ARPA funding is set for 11/16. Details forthcoming from the Board of Selectmen. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

Group Updates

Banners

- Final 2023 schedule was sent out. Orgs received, at minimum, their top two choices, and response was overwhelmingly positive.
- Specific language will be added to Banner guidelines regarding not allowing commercial events (galas, fundraisers, auctions), and single day events. These guidelines already exist, they will just be expanded for clarity.

Generator

- Council will not host a 4th quarter Generator this year.
- At the next meeting, the schedule for 2023 will be discussed, and dates for all 4 quarterly Generators will be chosen.
- Discussed marketing strategy to let people know these events are for the general public, not just artists.

EDR

- Small, but successful EDR held 10/28.
- Discussed ARPA expenditure tracking and recalibration. Long term goal is to have the arts as a budget line item.

- Next EDR scheduled for 12/9 at 9:00am at Guild of Artists

Brochures

- Upcoming winter brochure is the last that is funded and will cover December-February.
- Will discuss at a future meeting the effectiveness of the brochures as a marketing tool for the Arts Organizations. And will discuss funding options for subsequent brochures.

Scholarship

- Discussed awarding the 2023 scholarship at one of the end of year concerts at RHS. The idea was well received. Would push up the timeline for applications and selection process as the concerts are between April 26 and May 10.

New Business

2023 Programming Planning Discussion

- Will work on the 2023 calendar to set dates for quarterly Generators, EDR meetings, Scholarship selection, Music and Art in the Park event(s).
- Suggested celebration/acknowledgement of anniversary of Cultural District designation

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm following a motion made by Pamme and seconded by Jennifer. All approved.

The next meeting will be 12/7/2022.