

Community Players Monthly Meeting Agenda for January 8, 2025

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from December 2024 meeting

Treasurer's Report

President's Report

Committee Reports

Concessions: Brenda Allen

Facilities Management: Ken Johnson

Fundraising: Matt Bogdan (report submitted via email)

Grants: Matt Bogdan (report submitted via email)

Historical: Bonnie Bosies

Hospitality: Rusty Mumford

House: Betsy Metzger (report submitted via email)

Lifetime Achievement Awards: Sharon Benchoff (report submitted via email)

Marketing: Rusty Mumford

Membership: Melissa Dasher (report submitted via email)

Nominating: Sharon Benchoff (report submitted via email)

Patrons: Kel Nagel

Performance Space: Kel Nagel (report submitted via email)

Production: Darrell Mullins (report submitted via email)

Program: Tom Robinson

Program Advertising: Tom Robinson

Publicity: Pete Cuesta (report submitted via email)

Scholarship: Lynne Bratten

Season Tickets and Box Office: Rusty Mumford

Social Media: Kate Adkins (report submitted via email)

Old Business

1. *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*
2. New armed chairs and additional parts for platforms
3. New York trip
4. Electronic vote held approving Tony Broadbent's request for \$15K to use for purchases
5. Other old business

New Business

1. *A Few Good Men*
2. *I Hate Hamlet*
3. Progress on performance space/What is still needed (See Tony Broadbent's update)
4. Other new business

Next Meeting is February 5 at 6 p.m.

Adjournment

Committee Reports for January 8, 2025

Concessions - Brenda Allen

Report not received prior to meeting

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson

Report not received prior to meeting

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play was performed in late December 2024 and raised over \$1100.

2. A 50/50 raffle will be held at the upcoming performances of A Few Good Men. Contact Matt Bogdan if you are interested in helping with the raffle.

3. Dying for Chocolate, a murder mystery, will be held at the restaurant Poncho and Lefty's in West Ocean City on February 16 from 5:30 to 7. Players is guaranteed to make at least \$1000.

4. A Spring Craft and Vendor Fair will be held March 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are selling booth space for \$25. Wendy Stever, Konner Stever, and Shelbie Thompson are coordinating the event.

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. I completed an application for unrestricted operation funding from MidAtlantic Arts (Cultural Sustainability Grant).

2. I completed an application for the FY26 Grants for Organization Off Year grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

3. I am working on a grant application for Challenge America, which offers support for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved groups/communities. The term "underserved," as defined by the National Endowment of the Art's legislation and agency policy, refers to those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited relative to geography, ethnicity, economic status, or disability. Project activities may include, but are not limited to: arts programming; audience and community engagement, including educational activities; marketing and promotional activities; and organizational planning. I will be asking for \$10,000, which is the maximum award.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies

Report not received prior to meeting

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford

Report not received prior to meeting

House - Betsy Metzger

I joined Rusty at Players on Dec 31 to check out the setup of the house, the proposed Lobby area and possible locations of the Box office and concessions. I don't think these last two have been finally decided as of this writing. We will need to talk about holding the audience in the "lobby" area versus allowing the guests to find their seats right away. I strongly suggest the risers are well marked with row identification (think movie theaters) to make it easier for folks to find their seats. Perhaps glow in the dark paint for the letters.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff

Nothing to report.

Marketing - Rusty Mumford

Report not received prior to meeting

Membership - Melissa Dasher

Nothing new to report.

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff

Nothing to report.

Patrons - Kel Nagel

Report not received prior to meeting

Performance Space - Kel Nagel

As of this meeting date, in three weeks we will use our Nutters facility to stage a mainstage show for the first time! As I said in a recent email to board members and others, the stage is built, set is nearly done, and the tech folks are working to ensure that we have theatrical sound and lighting.

What we will not have, however, is a completed theater.

At this point, the board needs to prioritize the order of getting the complete project done, and in what order. We won't be finished for at least a year, and possibly more. We need to follow up with our architects and finalize the design of the front offices, storage spaces, etc. The new door was recently installed between the corner of the rehearsal space and the costume area, which will become part of the dressing room complex. Non-weather sensitive props have been moved to the scene shop. Among other things, we need to determine if we are going to use the attic space above the front of the building for costume storage. Likewise, we need to review the consultation regarding our wastewater disposal to decide if we can add more toilets.

My personal opinion is that in terms of priority, we need to do as much as possible to complete the theater space first, since that's where we will be spending most of our time, and, more importantly, where our audiences will spend most of their time. I believe that by doing our shows during the building process we will engage our audience in the process, encouraging their participation, and hopefully, their financial support.

For the theater space, we need to install the chairs which have recently arrived. Second, we need to do an engineering survey on the roof, and determine how much weight bearing it will tolerate, so we know what is safe to hang in terms of lighting, sound equipment, and curtains, along with any soundproofing we can do. We then need to build a corridor from the dressing room door and the up-right corner of the stage, for actors to traverse between the dressing rooms and backstage. Possibly some audience members, particularly disabled ones, will need to enter the theater via this corridor. Most of them will enter from the stage left side.

Veronique Diriker will be leading off tonight's meeting with a discussion of capital campaigns. At the meeting we will need to review the current building fund cash on hand and debt, so that we can make a spending plan and raise money as fast as we can, trying to avoid borrowing.

Production - Darrell Mullins

The Production Committee is meeting on January 6 to begin its work for the 2025/2026 season recommendations.

Program - Tom Robinson

Report not received prior to meeting

Program Advertising - Tom Robinson

Report not received prior to meeting

Publicity – Pete Cuesta

No changes...the usual is happening

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten

Report not received prior to meeting

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford

Report not received prior to meeting

Social Media - Kate Adkins

Please continue to "like, comment and share" CPOS social media posts. Please make sure the cast of all productions to engage are aware of our social and ask them to engage and share. It greatly increases our visibility online. I have been trying Posting at different times to see if this changes the reach of our posts, at present I have not seen a

distinct difference. I will be creating Facebook events The AFGM performances, and I Hate Hamlet Auditions soon.

Our highest interaction in December on **Instagram**: on 12/12, reached 256 people, It's a Wonderful Life post.

Our lowest interaction in December on **Instagram**: on 12/1, reached 41 people, Giving Tuesday update.

Our highest interaction in December on **Facebook**: on 12/20 reached 2,562 people, day of It's a Wonderful Life performance post.

Our lowest interaction in December on **Facebook**: on 12/22, reached 144 people, a AFGM tickets and show dates post. *A similar post the next day reached 226, and others even more. The more players members **like** and **share** the more eyes will see it.

If you have photos to be shared on social media please email Kate at "mariefox18@gmail.com" Directors, board members please send me what you want to post, I will share it.

If you have info for posting please include an image if you intend to use one, I will have to create one (Instagram requires an image to post) not an issue, it just delays the post being shared.

Update from Tony Broadbent regarding Progress on Building

(edited from an email sent to Matt Bogdan)

1. I have built the wall panels for the passage way from the stage to the dressing room. I DO NOT want them placed until I finish the wiring for the sound gear and the ramp is created and put in place. I have not created the top 2' high upper sections. . We need about 20 1x4's if we want to go up the extra 2'. I don't have time to get the wood. I like the staggered idea of putting the walls in place. If we go with that idea, I need a person (or two other people can do it) to help me run the plywood through the table saw to create the strips to held the panels together. Somebody needs to make the decision if we are going to paint them or create a mural. To be time efficient, I hope some people can bring in some saw horses and paint the panels in the heated area..
2. The electricians from Mast Electric came Tuesday, January 7, and worked on the wiring, etc.
3. Most of the rep plot lighting is up in place.
4. I hope to have the DMX lines and power run by at least the end of next Sunday..
5. I am going to stick to my guns and insist that we make a 14' x 4' ramp for getting up to stage level from inside the ramp. 14' long will make CPOS ADA complainant. If we get somebody that needs to get to stage level and make it easier to move the cast and props to stage level. If we support diversity and want to be in-line with building codes, we need the ramp. I need to focus on other things. I think parts of ramps that Kenny has created are going to be the base for the project.
6. I have told Pete that I don't want to do sound for his show. Overall, Pete might need some help recruiting a sound operator.
7. Pete and Jason picked up the desk from the church in Dover last Sunday. It is heavy so I bought some handles that we need to install to make it easier to move. It has not been put in place yet. It's going to be at least a week before I can start installing equipment in it. so it best to keep it on the floor, so the tech area can be worked on and so I can get upper level wiring done easier.
8. I would like to take two of the EVID Speakers (two of the 4 that we have had hanging up along the wall) and have the mounted high near the roll up door. I need a hand to hang them. I believe in having most SFX come from backstage. We will have an amplifier to run them.
9. I will need help hanging the speakers. We are going with a Center Channel Speaker and a pair of stereo speakers. We will have a Great Sound, much better than any theater in the area. I had to paint the speakers. I need on person to help me hold the speaker, so I don't scratch the paint.
10. Without a weather challenge, the pipe and drape curtains should be in place Friday night. I gave Pete a scale diagram of the layout a few weeks ago. I hope his blocking works well with them.