

Community Players Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Call to Order @ 6:02 pm

Board Members Present: Matt Bogdan, Darrell Mullins, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, Sharon Benchoff, Lynne Bratten, Cass Dasher, Kyle Hayes, Tom Robinson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelbie Thompson

Board Members Absent: David Allen, Kim Cuesta, Ken Johnson

Members Present: Tony Broadbent, Pete Cuesta, Kel Nagel

Guests Present: Ryan Bass, Ben Hamilton

Approval of the Minutes from November 2024

Minutes were previously e-mailed to the Board and membership.

Motion to approve by Charlie L, seconded by Tom. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Report previously to the Board. Summary given by Charlie.

President's Report

We are adding new members. Wendy Stever & and her son, Conner have joined the Fundraiser committee. Ryan Bass is helping build sets. We are not stagnant; we are vibrant, and people are jumping right in and contributing. Thanks to Sharon & Kel for all the work for Giving Tuesday. Also thank you to Tom R for donating the proceeds of a property sale to Players.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. A 50/50 raffle was held at the production of Guys and Dolls in early November, raising approximately \$900.
2. The production of Edgar Allan Poe: His Tales of Terror raised \$1000 this year, with performances at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury, the old Snow Hill Firehouse, and the Players Playhouse on Nutters Cross Road.
3. Dying for Chocolate, a murder mystery, was performed at the home of the owners of Bordeleau Winery in November and raised \$300. We will be performing this murder mystery again at Poncho's and Lefty's, a West Ocean City restaurant, February 16, 2025.
4. Para-Cles and Shakespeare's Shorts were held November 22-23 at the Players Playhouse, raising \$600.
5. Our next fundraiser is Giving Tuesday on December 3. Please consider donating on that day. Visit the Shore Gives More website and locate Community Players, where you will find our history, our mission statement, pictures and videos of past productions, and a list of needs and wants and what they cost.
6. It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play will be held December 20-22 at the Players Playhouse on Nutters Cross Road. Tickets are \$10 at the door (cash or check). Seating is limited. For reservations call Matt Bogdan, director, at 443-235-3272.

7. The fundraising committee met on November 18 and discussed fundraisers for 2025. These include 50/50 raffles at the productions of our main shows, a Murder Mystery, a Craft Fair, the production of WWII: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore (directed by Matt Bogdan), Guest Bartending, a Musical Review, the production of The Lighter Side of Aging (directed by Ann Northam), the Poe show (our fifth annual production), Giving Tuesday, A Gift to Remember (directed by Pete Cuesta), and Trivia Nights. **Motion by Lynne to approve Ann Northam directing *The Lighter Side of Aging*, seconded by Charlie L. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

8. The next fundraising committee meeting will be held January 13, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Players. All members of Players are welcome to attend.

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) did not approve the application for a grant that was geared to purchase sound and lighting equipment. Although no explanation was given for the denial, I have asked for an explanation, which I should receive by early January 2025.
2. Despite not getting the funding for the sound and lighting equipment from MSAC, it has been a productive year overall in getting grants from various organizations. We have received grants from the MSAC (\$5,366.54 for 2024 and \$9,324 for 2025 for general operations), Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (\$6,435 for door), Beach to Bay Heritage Area (\$5,000 for World War II production), Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council (\$2,167 for 2024-25 and \$2,167 for 2025-26), Worcester County Arts Council (\$1,000 for productions of Peri-Cles/Shakespeare Shorts and Poe show), and Coastal Association of Realtors (\$1000 for Harlem Renaissance show and Children's Theater Workshop).
3. I am currently working on an application for unrestricted operation funding of up to \$46K from MidAtlantic Arts (Cultural Sustainability Grant). Deadline for application is January 6, 2025.
4. I am also currently working on an application for the FY26 Grants for Organization Off Year grant, which is due December 15, 2024.

*Lynne knows a professional grant writer who is willing to sit down with Matt.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford

Please stay for refreshments after the meeting.

House - Betsy Metzger

Nothing new to report for the House.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff

Nothing to report

Marketing - Rusty Mumford

New website is being worked on.

Membership - Melissa Dasher

Nothing new to report.

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff

Nothing to report

Patrons - Kel Nagel

We have a couple of new patrons. Letter was sent to all regarding Giving Tuesday.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel

Our 2-3 year plan has been accelerated in order to do *A Few Good Men* here. Will need to start capital campaign in the new year. The new door will be in by Friday, using Grant money, (16 inches off the back wall, 36-inch door, will swing into the costume room) and door to shop will be rehung in the other direction. Moving everything from the prop room to the scene shop on Thursday. The Architect has sub-contracted the sewer/septic survey. It will take place next Tuesday.

Production - Darrell Mullins

Just a reminder that December 31st is the deadline for the following:

1. Volunteer to be a member of the Production Committee. Please note that it may not be possible for all volunteers to serve on the committee as we need to make sure we have a balance of performance and technical expertise.
 2. Submit shows for consideration as part of the 2025-2026 season. You may submit a show without committing to direct it.
- *Only have 2 submitted, so far.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for the committee or wanting to submit a show for consideration should contact Darrell Mullins, Production Committee Chair, at dgmullins58@gmail.com. If you are submitting a show for consideration, you will need to complete the "Show Submission Form." Reach out to Darrell for that form.

Program - Tom Robinson

Not started yet

Program Advertising - Tom Robinson

Publicity – Pete Cuesta

A few Good Men is all set in motion. Starting a committee for the artwork for future shows. Suggested we add our shows to SWAC Calendar.

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten

The scholarship material will be posted in January.

*Lynne also noted that costumes were used in the Junior Board Fashion Show. Charlie L. stated that a thank you note with a \$100 donation was received from the Junior Board in Lynne's honor.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford

Need seating arrangements so can get tickets live for *A Few Good Men*. New chairs & raisers are supposed to be here by the end of December. Matt will get dimensions of new chairs in order to figure out seating plan by next week.

Social Media - Kate Adkins

A **huge** thank you to Shelbie for taking the reins for Giving Tuesday for social media. She and Sharon were fabulous with communication and teamwork.

Please continue to “like, comment and share” CPOS social media posts. Please make sure cast of all productions to engage are aware of our social and ask them to engage and share. It greatly increases our visibility online.

Our highest interaction in November on Instagram: on 11/1, reached 584 people, opening night G&D. Our lowest interaction in November on Instagram: on 11/27, reached 36 people, giving Tuesday update.

Our highest interaction in November on Facebook: on 11/2 reached 3,757 people, G&D second performance.

Our lowest interaction in November on Facebook: on 11/7, reached 75 people, a AFGM audition event post.

If you have photos to be shared on social media, please email Kate at “mariefox18@gmail.com”

There are times I learn about posts people are sharing of players promotional content without even getting a heads up. The algorithm of my own life does always correlate directly to players related information, 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.

Old Business

1. *A Few Good Men*. Auditions were held. Show dates are Jan 31, Feb 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9
2. *It's a Wonderful Life*. Auditions were held. Show dates are Dec 20, 21 & 22
3. *Poe Show* was performed at Players' Nov 15 & 17
4. *Peri-Cles* and *Shakespeare Shorts* were performed at Players' Nov 22 & 23
5. Bus trip to NYC has been cancelled. There was not enough interest for a bus. Darrell can still get a group rate if 10 people want show tickets.

New Business

1. *A Few Good Men* – Rehearsals going faster than expected, should be fully blocked in another week.
2. *It's A wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* – Matt will be on channel 47 tomorrow and WBOC – Delmarva Life. There are 26 in the cast, lots of new people.
3. Giving Tuesday – We had 61 donors, giving \$20,975. We also were awarded a Golden Ticket worth \$1000 which Shelbie T. presented to the Board. We do not yet know how much we will receive in matching funds.
4. Updates on Theater ready for *A Few Good Men*
 - a. Stage – Will be joining on Saturday and Painting 2 Fridays from now. Stage is permanent, not able to be stuck and stacked.
 - b. Additional materials for risers – on its way
 - c. Armed chairs – on their way
 - d. Curtains and pipes – need architects to evaluate if it is safe to hang, weight load. It is on their list.
 - e. Electric – Upgrading 20 circuits and removing 2. Tim can do it the first 2 weeks of January. **Motion by Rusty to upgrade electric. Seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.** It was noted that info about this was sent to few. Lynne requested that the Board be CC'd in future emails.
 - f. Light and Sound

- g. Walkway from stage to dressing room – Have ordered steel bases to get started (This writer is not sure if this steel bases goes with topic f. or g.)
 - h. Dressing room door – to be installed very soon
 - i. Renting portable toilets – have been secured for *A Few Good Men*
 - j. Blueprints of remodel are ready to display at performances.
5. Auditions for *I Hate Hamlet* are scheduled for Feb 10 & 11. Show dates are April 4-6 & 10-13
 6. Kel announced there will be a presentation at the next meeting from a Capital Campaign specialist, V Diker.
 7. **Motion by Lynne for \$100 to buy 2-3 tote boxes to store Renaissance Fair costumes & materials. Seconded by Tom. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Next meeting is January 8 at 6:00 pm

Motion by Tom to adjourn, Seconded by Cass. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.