

Community Players Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025

Call to Order 6:00 pm

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

Board Members Absent: David Allen, Sharon Benchoff, Lynne Bratten, Kim Cuesta, Ken Johnson, Charlie Linton

Members Present: Sammy Barnes, Tony Broadbent, Kel Nagel, Joshua Smith

Guests Present: Ben Hamilton

Approval of the Minutes from December 2024

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

Motion to approve by Rusty, seconded by Charlie S-T. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Report previously e-mailed to the Board. Summary given by Tom R.

Waiting for money from Shore Gives More/Giving Tuesday, checks should be mailed this week. Sale of Tom's property was postponed on Friday, should be rescheduled soon.

President's Report

Currently in the messy middle of preparations for *A Few Good Men* performance. Door installed to dressing room. Door inverted to shop. Electricians were here today and a new box was installed. New chairs are here. Will be numbered prior to *AFGM*. Curtain delivery did not show up yesterday as scheduled.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen

Report not received prior to meeting

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson

Report not received prior to meeting

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan (report submitted via email)

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 (report submitted via email)

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.
4. Applying for a grant fore the Children’s Workshop.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies

Report not received prior to meeting

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford

Report not received prior to meeting

House - Betsy Metzger (report submitted via email)

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 (report submitted via email)

Nothing to report.

Marketing - Rusty Mumford

Report not received prior to meeting

Membership - Melissa Dasher (report submitted via email)

Nothing new to report.

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff (report submitted via email)

Nothing to report.

Patrons - Kel Nagel

We have a couple of new patrons, waiting for their checks to arrive though.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel (report submitted via email)

Kel reports that he needs people to help him with this committee. See him if willing.

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. ***This was postponed, due to weather.**

Production - Darrell Mullins (report submitted via email)

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

MUSICALS	DIRECTOR
1776	Sharon Benchoff
Anne of Green Gables	
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	Sherri Hynes
Annie	Sherri Hynes
Newsies	Rusty Mumford
Plays	
Cat On a Hot Tin Roof	Rusty Mumford
Is He Dead?	Kel Nagel
Misery	Devin La Femina
Murder On the Nile	Rusty Mumford
Old Hams	Sherri Hynes
The Welkin	Kimberly Cuesta & Robin Finley
To Kill a Mockingbird	Matt Bogden

Anne of Green Gables was submitted without a director. **Anyone interested in directing should inform Darrell by January 31.** Director's pitch meeting is proposed for Feb 23 at 3:00pm. The Board is encouraged to attend.

Program - Tom Robinson

Report not received prior to meeting

Program Advertising - Tom Robinson

Only have received 1 bio from *AFGM* so far. They are due this Sunday.

Publicity – Pete Cuesta (report submitted via email)

No changes...the usual is happening

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten (report submitted via email)

Attached is the 2025 Players Scholarship information.

As soon as school opens again, I will be sending this to the guidance departments, theater and choir directors as well as to the county guidance supervisor for inclusion in the master program of scholarships. Please feel free to distribute to any graduating senior who has participated in any of our programs, on or off stage or whose family has been involved in our programs. I would also request that it be included in the February newsletter.

The deadline to apply is March 15, 2025. The submitted applications will be forwarded to all board members with scoring information that will be due back before the regular board meeting in April. Thank you for your continued support.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford

Tickets are selling slowly. Would like to open the box office on Wednesdays from 4-8pm, or by appointment, here at the building (for the rest of the season.) Will try and see if it works. Will need to clean up the foyer in front of the counter

Social Media - Kate Adkins (report submitted via email)

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.

Old Business

1. *It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*

We had 25 people on the new stage.

2. New armed chairs and additional parts for platforms

Chairs Arrived. Platforms assembled. **Motion by Rusty to spend up to \$200 to buy materials to number chairs. Tom Second. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

3. New York trip

This was cancelled.

4. Electronic vote held approving Tony Broadbent’s request for \$15K to use for purchases

Electronic vote held previously. Work is being done. Tony is putting in a lot of hours. The Board expressed their appreciation for all Tony is doing.

5. Other old business
None

New Business

1. *A Few Good Men*
Going well.

2. *I Hate Hamlet*
Auditions Feb 10 & 11, Callback on 12th if needed. Character descriptions will be on the website & will also be in the next newsletter

3. Progress on performance space/What is still needed (Tony Broadbent's update)

Update from Tony Broadbent regarding Progress on Building
(edited by Matt Bogdan from an email)

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.

4. Other new business

Consult received from wastewater management. Adding more bathrooms will be risky with the current drain field. Recommend we use portables. Have 2 porta potties ordered for *AFGM*.

Pete would like to serve Beer & Wine at AFGM. Matt met with woman from the county. As long as we have a bartender with certified alcohol awareness training cost is \$30 a day for permit. 3 Board member signatures needed. Do we need to check with Liability insurance? Tom will check into this. **Motion by Rusty to sell beer and wine during productions. Seconded by Cass. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Britney- cleaner now charging \$130. Would like to increase to \$200 to clean platforms prior to a show. **Motion by Tom to pay cleaner \$200 before a performance. Seconded by Darrell.** We would like to know what all she is doing. Does this include bathrooms? Seeking clarification? **Motion tabled.**

We need consistency in what we call our space. Noticed Players Play House being used for an upcoming event. Rusty suggested "Players 5109". **Email Matt suggestions for a name. Board will discuss at the next meeting.** Potential for advertising come to next show to learn out new space name.

Next Meeting is February 5 at 6 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm