

## **Community Players Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**July 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

Call to order at 7:00 pm

**Board Members Present:** Tom Robinson, David Allen, Shelbie Thompson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Matt Bogdan, Kyle Hayes, Lynne Bratten, Ken Johnson, Cass Dasher, Sharon Benchoff, Charlie Linton, Darrell Mullins

**Board Members Absent:** Kim Cuesta, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford

**Members Present:** Kel Nagel, Bobbie Calloway, Sherri Hynes, Brenda Allen, Betsy Metzger, Tony Broadbent, Heather Oland, Devin LaFemina, Bonnie Bosies

### **Approval of the Minutes from July 2025**

Minutes were previously sent via email. Charlie Linton made the motion that the minutes be approved as sent. Second, by David Allen. Motion carried with no changes or additions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Report previously sent to the Board. Summary given by Charlie Linton

### **President's Report**

Congratulations to Cass Dasher on her directorial debut with *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Profit estimate once all receipts are turned in will be \$10,000.00. Thanks to Matt for his service as president and for his fund-raising activities during his term as president.

### **Committee Reports**

Committee chairs submitted their reports via email prior to the meeting. The following were discussions that took place at the meeting that were not included in the reports submitted.

**Concessions:** Brenda Allen stated that all the coolers purchased for the lobby are working well.

**Facilities:** Ken Johnson will be going to Baltimore to pick up additional shelving units for the scene shop for storage of props, etc. Ken made a motion that he be permitted to spend up to \$300 for new cinder blocks to build a new fire pit. Second by Tom. Motion carried. Tom stated that the work on the new roof continues and that Peninsula Roofing will examine the roof over the Scene Shop and give an estimate to repair the leaks. The floor will be cleaned, buffed and waxed when the Summer Theatre Workshop concludes this month. David will build the additional steps needed to step up to the audience platforms and research additional railings at the steps. The railing on the sides and back of the stage will be reattached. Tom reported that the trees on both edges on the front of the lot that were blocking our sign have now been removed. David made a motion that he be permitted to spend up to \$500 to replace the two work lights over the stage and under the mezzanine. Second by Ken. Motion passed.

**Hospitality:** Rusty submitted in his report that we should plan for a Kickoff Dinner. During the discussion that followed, it was determined that there was not enough time to plan, advertise and hold the dinner. There would only be one possibly two articles in the Newsletter to let folks know. Betsy suggested an Open House with finger food, so the public could see what we have done with our space. We could officially announce the season at that time, perhaps with each director speaking about their show. Discussion followed regarding the Open House. Shelbie felt it was too late this year and Brenda stated that we should have a good cleaning of the building and areas if we are going to invite the public. Matt said that an Open House could be held in

September and made a motion that the Open House should be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. David second. Motion carried. Matt stated that he will help Rusty with the Open House.

**Patrons:** Kel stated that he needs someone to take over the position as chair for Patrons.

**Marketing:** A meeting with Will Townsend (who is designing the new website) to show the design will be scheduled. David stated that we need to be able to test the site and learn how it works. If done through WIX, it would have a link so that we can try it out as a user. We need to have a donate button on the pages of the site.

**Performance Space:** Kel had a handout (attached) with the amount of money needed for our capital campaign. Vernique (sp) formally an employee of the Community Foundation and who has worked on numerous fund-raising activities has agreed to help us out with the planning of the campaign. She said that we definitely have to have our new website before we begin our capital campaign. Tony suggested that an additional twenty thousand should be added to the amount for sound baffles to help deaden the sound of the rain on the roof. We may also want to include an awning over the entrance to the lobby. Tom stated that we cannot approve and sign the contract with Gillis Gilkerson for the remodeling of the front of the building and completing the attic space at this time because we do not have the \$240 thousand. Matt suggested that we wait to remodel the front of the building until we have everything we need for the stage and audience areas. Brenda said this may be a good idea to wait at this time until we have had a full season's worth of shows in our space to determine what else we may need for the stage and audience areas before going forward with the capital campaign. Kel needs more people to serve on the capital campaign, especially those that have experience and/or connections. Cass suggested we reach out to members, who do not regularly attend meetings, to serve.

**Advertising:** Tom will send out the letter to previous advertisers for the 2025/2026 in August. If anyone knows of any new businesses who may be interested in advertising in the program, please let him know.

**Social Media:** Shelby would like to hand over this function to someone else. If anyone is interested, please contact Shelby and she will help get you started.

**Membership:** Melissa submitted the proposed 2025/2026 membership form with the amount of dues and categories remaining the same. Shelby moved to accept the membership form as submitted by Melissa. Second, Tom. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

**Summer Youth Workshop:** Cass announced that Rusty resigned from the summer youth workshop. The committee had a lot of qualified people apply for the counselors. Cass said having the camp for two weeks may be too much, but will review how this year goes to make decisions for next summer.

**Pride Parade:** Cass reported that Players had 11 walkers for the parade and that having a banner in addition to the handmade signs would be good as well as a truck for next year. Sharon stated that having a banner and table cloth with our logo would be good to have for all events that we attend. Sharon made a motion that she spend up to \$200 on a banner and table cloth which she will design. Cass second. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

Shelby stated that Players will be at Brew River on July 10<sup>th</sup> as guest bartenders to raise money for Players. We will receive 20% of food and drinks served outside on the deck.

Betsy brought up the idea that Players, especially now that we are performing in our own space, have and use incident reports for anyone that may be injured. Even if they say they will not sue or even seek care, it will cover us. Tom will check with an attorney to see if the person must sign the report. The reports, both blank and complete, should be kept in the office in a binder. David made a motion to proceed with the incident reports as discussed. Charlie S. second. Motion carried.

## **New Business Continued**

The Production Committee met and discussed suggestions that were made because of this year's work and proposed season. Darrell and Shelbie wrote the notes from the two meetings that the Production Committee held after the vote on this coming season. One suggestion is that the timetable begin earlier than the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for submissions. Another that plays could be submitted by the Production Committee and that directors apply to direct that play. This is the method that Possum Point uses. Other suggestions and details on the above are outlined in the report submitted by the Production Committee to the board. The following discussion followed. One suggestion was made that people from the same family should not serve on the production committee. Another suggestion was that only one Board member (the Vice President) should serve on the Production Committee. The reason being that they would influence the recommended season and then have the ability to vote on that season as a board member. Must have all disciplines of theatre on the Production Committee. Due to the small number of volunteers, it may be difficult to only have one board member on the Production Committee, especially if all disciplines of theatre need to be represented on the Production Committee. A suggestion from the floor that was discussed previously by the board is that after the "pitch meeting" that a follow-up board meeting be held prior to the April meeting when the season is voted on. Shelbie and Darrell will incorporate these comments and suggestions into a written report that will be sent out to the board this summer.

Per a request made at the meeting, Tom will send out a list of members without their email address or contact information to the board.

Lynne would like to form a Costume Committee to assist in the management and organizing of Players' costume inventory.

Darrell suggested that box office, bar and concessions should all be under the House Manager position now that we have our own space/lobby.

David made a motion that he be permitted to spend up to \$500 on additional houselights. Second, Sharon. Motion passed.

David made a motion that he be permitted to spend up to \$800 to replace our wi-fi which is no longer reliable. Second, Kenny. Motion passed.

Tony stated he would like to spend \$1,500 for additional lighting hardware. Sharon reminded Tony and the board that at the previous board meeting, it was recorded that there was still \$1,500 left of the money that had been allocated to lighting, so buy up to that amount for what we need.

Brenda stated we need a first aid kit. It was stated that we have at least two. One may be in the Stage Manager's bag and the other probably is in the Scene Shop. Kenny said that he will research what we have and what we need to replenish the kits.

Election ballots for the 2025 Vice President and three new Board members were counted. Sharon announced the results: Vice President – Kyle Hayes, New Board Members – Pete Cuesta, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson

Sharon moved meeting be adjourned, Charlie L. second. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.