

Community Players Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Call to Order @ 7:00 pm

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

Board Members Absent: Lynne Bratten, Kim Cuesta, Cass Dasher, Ken Johnson

Members Present: Kate Adkins, Brenda Allen, Bonnie Bosies, Tony Broadbent, Bobbie Callaway, Pete Cuesta, Kel Nagel, Ann J. Northam

Guests Present: None

Approval of the Minutes from October 2024

Minutes were previously e-mailed to the Board and membership shortly after the September meeting.

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

Treasurer's Report

Report previously to the Board. Summary given by Charlie.

President's Report

Matt congratulated Tom R for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award and spoke about Sue Hess because most in attendance did not know her. Her son accepted the award on her behalf. Matt also shared congratulations and thank yous to everyone involved with Guys and Dolls.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen

Concessions are currently going well for Guys and Dolls. We'll be providing intermission refreshments for Poe and Para-Cles.

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson

No report

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. Players raised \$895 with a 50/50 raffle at Guys and Dolls. Thanks to those who helped.
2. Players raised \$265 with performances of Peri-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts at Rackliffe House in Berlin. Thanks to Sharon Benchoff and cast and crew.
3. Players raised \$700 for The Poe Show at Possum Point Players in Georgetown, DE, the Old Firehouse in Snow Hill, MD, and Poplar Hill Mansion in Salisbury. Thanks to the cast and crew.
4. We will be performing The Poe Show at Players on November 15 at 7:30 p.m. and November 17 at 2 p.m. We will be performing Peri-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts at Players on November 22 at 7:30 p.m. and November 23 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. We will be performing It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show at Players on December 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and December 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets for all shows are \$10, cash or check, and available at the door.
5. Giving Tuesday will be held December 3, 2024. Sharon is heading this up. This is a nationwide event for non-profit organizations. Our application has been submitted and approved. BIG News, for every dollar we raise

another \$1 will be added to our total. **We need a list of things we want to purchase. E-mail suggestions to Sharon in the next 2 days.** One of our goals is for 100% Board participation.

6. A fundraising committee meeting will be held November 18 at 7 p.m. at Players. The committee is open to all members. Please attend this meeting if you can so that we can plan the fundraising events for 2025, which will include a show entitled World War II: Honoring the Men and Women of the Eastern Shore, for which we have received a \$5000 grant from Beach to Bay Heritage Area. (Matt is hoping to plan out 2025 in order to get Board approval at the December meeting.)

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. The Worcester County Arts Council granted Players \$500 for Peri-Cles and Shakespeare Shorts that was held at Rackliffe House in Berlin. The funds were used for props, set, and travel.
2. The Worcester County Arts Council granted Players \$500 for The Poe Show that was held at the Old Firehouse in Snow Hill. The funds were used for props, set, and publicity.
3. A mid-year report was submitted to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore regarding the grant we received of \$6,435 from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore so that we can install a fire door from the dressing room to the main stage. It was reported that we have not installed the door yet.
4. An application was completed for a grant of \$10,000 from Chesapeake Gateways Event Support Grant for a one-act play festival that celebrates the rich cultural, historical, natural, or recreational legacy and ongoing story of Chesapeake Gateways communities to be held during the summer of 2025.
5. An application is being worked on for a Folk and Traditional Arts Community Projects Grant of \$7000 from Mid Atlantic Arts for a one-act play festival to be held during the summer of 2025.
6. **Because we have grant money to put in a door, Motion made by David to go ahead and put a door in the corner into what will become the dressing room. Seconded by Melissa. All responded yea. Motion Passed.** Matt & Kel will contact the architects to determine placement.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies

No report

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford

See Old Business #5

House - Betsy Metzger

Nothing to report from the House.

Lifetime Achievement Awards - Sharon Benchoff

Nothing to report

Marketing - Rusty Mumford

Website rebuild is in the works.

Membership - Melissa Dasher

Nothing new to report

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff

Nothing to report

Patrons - Kel Nagel

Slight decrease in the number so far this season. Kel would appreciate help in recruiting new patrons and encourages Board Members to be patrons.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel

Will discuss in both Old and New Business.

Production - Darrell Mullins

The deadline to submit a show to be considered for the 2025-2026 season is December 31. Submitting a show does not require that you commit to directing.

The deadline to volunteer to serve on the Production Committee is December 31. Membership is limited to 9 people, including the committee chair. That, and maintaining a balance between performance and technical expertise, will determine who is selected to participate.

There was a question about whether a 5th show by children in August should be handled by the Production Committee or the Special Production Fundraising Committee. Shelby voiced it should be part of special production committee as to not fit into the restrictions of the production committee.

Program - Tom Robinson

Tries to not overprint. Ran short by about 10 on Sunday. Pretty good estimate. We really like the color cover.

Program Advertising - Tom Robinson

We have a few less this season, but also have a few new ones.

Publicity – Pete Cuesta

Billboards, banners, social and printed media and posters were up for 'Guys and Dolls'. Will meet with the production staff of 'A Few Good Men' and ready media launch. Plan on meeting with Darrell for 'I Hate Shakespeare' in 1 to 2 months.

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten

Scholarship information will be distributed in January

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford

Guys and Dolls sold 274 on Friday, 317 on Saturday, 539 on Sunday, for a total of 1130. Sold the majority of the tickets the week on the show.

Social Media - Kate Adkins

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

Our highest interaction in September on **Instagram**: on 10/24, reached 779 people, first post for production team of G&D

Our lowest interaction in September on **Instagram**: on 10/19, reached 57 people, Poe show for that night.

Our highest interaction in September on **Facebook**: on 10/115, reached 1,643 people, G&D rehearsal photos.

Our lowest interaction in September on **Facebook**: on 10/26, reached 152 people, Poe show for that night.

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. **Guy & Dolls** congrats for all Sherrie's work. As director, she was concerned it would not make any money. Total profit will be finalized on November's financial report.
2. **Poe** 1st time at possum point – a little disappointed in attendance at 3 venues
3. **A Few Good Men** will be held here, at the Players' building. Not at Wor-Wic. – auditions Sun, Mon, & Tue, November 10, 11, 12.
4. **Risers**, new platforms arrived to replace the damaged ones. - want to go up another level, need to order legs and more handrails. **Motion made by Rusty, to purchase what is needed to complete risers. Seconded by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**
5. **Kick-off** cancelled – only 6 RSVPs. David stated would be better to send out invitations rather than just print in the newsletter

New Business

1. **Stage for A Few Good Men** taped out 40 x 20 x 14" area on floor, suggesting 22 ft Priced from Home Depot \$2500. **Motion made by Tom for Pete to spend up to \$3000 to purchase materials to build stage. Seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**
2. **It's A Wonderful Life: A Life Radio Play** – auditions Nov 13-14, Show at Players December 20-22.
3. **Poe** show at Players Nov 15 & 17
4. **Para-Cles** at Players – November 22 & 23
5. **Bus trip** to NYC organized by Darrell. If not enough interested people – will not do it. Will be in Newsletter and on social media
6. **Sound and Lighting Committee** formed with Tony Broadbent, Chair, David Allen, Sharon Benchoff & Ken Johnson. Tony estimated need the ceiling to hold a 5400-pound weight load, can we do it? If not, will need trusses built from the floor. Tony created a report. Needs to go to Becker/Morgan and ask their Engineer will look at it. Matt will send it to them. Looking to get an electrical company to tell us if we can put in more outlets. Matt submitted a grant to the state arts council for light and sound. Will follow up when we can expect an answer.
7. **What Must be Done to present A Few Good Men at Players?**
Water not drinkable. Update signs stating water not drinkable. Do we need a water treatment system? Will discuss later after renovations. Do we need to rent port-a-potty? Curtains needed for Hallway, Back of Audience & Stage. Tom R will talk to Salisbury School re borrow for the hall way. Darrell, look into renting curtains. Can use" Tony's" curtains for back wall. Buy Pipe & Drape to create wings. Save some seats on the floor for handicap. (TONY) Clear Space is selling a mixer 3 years old, 4 sets of mics like we just bought, and amplifier – selling for \$2500 . **Motion made by David to approve purchase mixer, mics, etc. Seconded by**

Sharon. All responded yea. Motion Passed. Motion made by rusty to create reserved seating for all main stage shows in Players. Seconded by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

8. **Board meetings conflicting with Main Show rehearsals.** Should the Board move meetings around rehearsal schedule? Should the Director work around Board meetings? Should we start meeting earlier and rehearsal later? Motion by Sharon that during main show rehearsal times the Board meeting will start earlier, at 6:00. Seconded by Darell. All responded yea. Motion Passed.
9. **Other .** Chefs for Habitat. Motion by Rusty to again donate 2 season tickets for next season. Seconded by Tom. All responded yea. Motion Passed.
10. Bobbie suggested Players buy an EAD for building. Can this be put on Giving Tuesday request list. Motion by Sharon that we purchase one. Tabled until we get a price.
11. Motion by Rusty for \$100 to buy refreshments for December meeting. Seconded by Darrell. All responded yea. Motion Passed.
12. Kel stated have we heard from the architects. They thought they were waiting for more direction. Matt will contact them. Will also ask to get plans to display at building during *A Few Good Men* and other shows being held at Players.
13. Motion by Tom to spend about \$450 for a survey on sewage/septic capacity in order to add more bathrooms. Seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Motion to adjourn by Rusty. Seconded by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Adjourned at 8:35

Next Meeting – December 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Submitted by Melissa Dasher