

Community Players Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2025

Call to Order at 6:00 PM.

Board Members Present: Matt Bogdan, Darrell Mullins, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, Tom Robinson, David Allen, Sharon Benchoff, , Kim Cuesta, Cass Dasher, Ken Johnson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelbie Thompson

Board Members Absent: Lynne Bratten, Kyle Hayes

Members Present: Brenda Allen, Sammy Barnes, Bobbie Calloway, Pete Cuesta, Devin La Femina, Betsy Metzger, Heather Oland

Guests Present: Ben Hamilton, Andrew, Peters, Dena Transeau

Approval of June 2025 meeting minutes

Minutes were e-mailed to the Board.

Motion to approve as submitted by Darrell, seconded by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Charlie summarized. May was quiet. *I Hate Hamlet* profit is approximately \$10,500.

President's Report

Matt wishes Darrell the best of luck as incoming President.

Committee Reports The following reports were submitted prior to the meeting. Additional comments made during the meeting are noted.

Concessions: Brenda Allen

Nothing to report

Facilities Management: Ken Johnson

Warehouse is still a mess. Will need help getting it back in order.

Fundraising: Matt Bogdan

1. We received many donations and program ads for *World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore*, raising approximately \$4,000. Another \$2000 is possible via the American Legion in Ocean City. Thanks to the venues where we held the performances, to the program advertisers, to those who helped with the 50/50 raffles, and to those who donated. Thanks also to those who helped with the production in any way and to the cast members who served as dramatic readers.
2. 50/50 raffles will be held at the performances of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
3. Trivia Nights will not be held Friday, June 27, or any other time this summer.
4. *The Lighter Side of Aging*, directed by Ann Northam, will be performed at our theater on Saturday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, July 6, at 2 p.m., Friday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 12, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Reservations are not necessary but encouraged since seating is limited. For reservations call 443-235-3272.
5. A Guest Bartending fundraiser, coordinated by Shelbie Thompson, is scheduled for July 10 at Brew River. More details to follow.

6. A Music Revue, directed by Rusty Mumford, is scheduled for August 15-17 at our theater. More details to follow.
7. I asked the coordinator of the radio show at Possum Point for more information about the radio show that is scheduled to be performed at our theater in November. Here is his response:

We are pretty flexible and try to tailor our presentations to the group to which we are presenting. Our standard show consists of 4 parts. We start with a short introduction to old-time radio, using clips from several shows, such as *The Shadow*, *Gunsmoke*, *Lights Out*, *Fibber McGee and Molly* and a few others (about 9 minutes). This is followed by two half-hour scripts, usually a mystery and a comedy. We close it out with a short humorous script (3-5 minutes). In between, we may add some information about the particular series from which our scripts originate, always attempting to add some humor to the presentation.

We can adjust both the length and content, according to the wishes of the client.

We haven't yet selected the scripts that we will be using. We usually start planning for a live show 3 to 4 weeks ahead of the show date by seeing which of our actors are available. Then we select scripts based on which actors we have and schedule some rehearsals. Right now we have live shows scheduled for June, July and August and may record some more for Radio Rehoboth.

If you have any suggestions as to the type of show (mystery, comedy, horror, etc) that you would like to hear, we can do something along those lines. By the way, we have a very funny Burns and Allen Thanksgiving show in our repertoire.

Anyway, I'd love to hear your thoughts on this.

Additional comments made during the meeting: WWII presentation was very well done.

Grants: Matt Bogdan

1. I completed a final report for Beach to Bay Heritage Area for the \$5,000 grant which was used for the production of *World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore*.
2. I applied for the most recent SWAC grant, asking for \$5000 over a two-year period.
3. I am pursuing a Maryland 250 grant and a Beach to Bay Heritage Area grant with the intent to apply those funds to 1776's production costs.
4. I am still pursuing a grant of \$10,000 from the Maryland Heritage Areas Program to produce a special production based on the life and times of Frederick Douglass.
5. An electronic vote was made in the affirmative to purchase a main curtain, curtain rack, hardware to hang it, the pipe for the cyc, the cyc itself, and two additional pipes for lighting fixtures not to exceed \$8,500 of the \$10,000 grant provided by the Jack P. and Anne R. Smith Foundation.
6. An electronic vote was made in the affirmative to use \$2000 of the MSAC grant of \$9,324 to go toward our summer workshops.
7. We need to vote on the spending of the remaining \$7,324 of the MSAC grant and the remaining \$1,500 of the Smith Foundation grant.
8. The motion to purchase risers and legs for the risers was submitted electronically by David Allen, but after on-line discussion, the motion was withdrawn so that we can discuss this motion in person at the June 2025 board meeting.

Historical: Bonnie Bosies

Hospitality: Rusty Mumford

Additional comments made during the meeting: We are still hospitable.

House: Betsy Metzger

Additional comments made during the meeting: Still looking for ushers for *The Importance of Being Earnest* for the first Sunday and the second weekend.

Lifetime Achievement Awards: Sharon Benchoff

Nothing to report

Marketing: Rusty Mumford

Additional comments made during the meeting: Will & Rusty set up a time for Board to preview the new website on Sunday, June 8 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. E-mail suggestions or additional content to Rusty afterwards.

Membership: Melissa Dasher

Nothing to report

Nominating: Sharon Benchoff

Election ballots will be counted at the June meeting and the slate of officers and board will be announced.

Additional comments made during the meeting: **Motion by Sharon to postpone counting ballots for three open Board spots due to late arrival of newsletter until July 2nd meeting, seconded by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Patrons: Kel Nagel

Comments made during the meeting: Sent email to patrons regarding *The Importance of Being Earnest* and ordering tickets.

Performance Space: Kel Nagel

See letter under new business.

Additional comments made during the meeting: Need to add climate control for attic into estimation.

Production: Darrell Mullins

Comments made during the meeting: The committee had 2 additional meetings. Will send recommendations to Board and put on July meeting agenda.

Program/Program advertising: Tom Robinson

Comments made during the meeting: Running next week

Publicity: Pete Cuesta

No changes, billboards are going up as is the banner. Please remind everybody on the Board to please take and put up some posters for “the importance of being Earnest”.

Additional comments made during the meeting: Clarified billboards are up for 30 days.

Scholarship: Lynne Bratten

Comments made during the meeting: Presented to all 6 recipients. Thank you to the anonymous donor for the funds for 3 additional scholarships.

Season Tickets and Box Office: Rusty Mumford

Comments made during the meeting: Encourage to purchase tickets, may also be available at the door. Send next season's artwork so Rusty can work on season tickets.

Social Media: Shelbie Thompson

Comments made during the meeting: Continue engaging with Earnest posts on social media. Will announce next season very soon.

Old Business

1. Cooler purchased; doors tinted; roofers to begin work; fence still needs fixing; still interested in having a marquee; two trees to be cut

Comments made during the meeting: There are actually 2 trees on one side and 3 trees on the other side that are not on our property. Tom received permission to remove them. Fence will be repaired next week.

2. March craft fair strengths and improvements; approval of craft fair for October 4
3. *Lighter Side of Aging* performance dates moved to July 5, 6, 11, and 12.
4. Music Revue approved for August 15-17.
5. Possum Point radio show scheduled for November 23 was tabled/More info needed
6. *A Gift to Remember* approved for December 11-14
7. Preliminary ballot for nominations distributed
8. Update given on performance space by Sharon B.
9. Production committee to have Post Recommendation meeting
10. Scholarship recipients notified
11. Updates given on *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore*, *Lighter Side of Aging*, and Youth Workshops.
12. Beach to Bay Heritage Area \$100 membership fee approved
13. Motion to spend \$680 to replace batteries in scissor lift approved
14. Avery Hall Insurance in need of volunteers

Still need volunteers. Thursday June 12, 4-7 to walk around in 1920 costumes.

15. Donation of paint received from Child Advocacy Center
16. Other old business

New Business

1. *The Importance of Being Earnest* update

Rehearsals are going well. Charlie has stepped into the role of Jack. Borrowed cyc from Salisbury school is hung. Set is almost done. Going to be a great show

2. *WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore* update

6 performances, raised \$4000. Asked to come back and do it again next year.

3. *The Lighter Side of Aging* update

Casting is complete. Rehearsal tomorrow at 3:00.

4. Possum Point Radio Show discussion/vote

Motion by Rusty, to approve date of November 23rd, with our tech people running lights and sound, seconded by Charlie S-T. There were additional questions, including will they need rehearsal time? Motion withdrawal and shelved until July to give time to seek answers to questions.

5. Youth workshops' update

Counselors have been hired. Registration is open until June 30. So far there are 12-13 for kids (25 max) 6-8 teens (20max) registered.

Would like to remove the bottom 2-3 risers after *The Lighter Side of Aging*.

6. Capital Campaign update

Letter submitted by Kel Nagel

We have now done two main stage shows at our new theater and are opening the next one in a week or so. With each show, the performance space, lighting and sound get a little better. We still have much to do and need to raise enough money to do it.

Over the past few months, we have managed to do a few things with regard to fundraising, including special shows, raffles, etc. These raise a relatively small amount of money, but every little bit helps, and all of them help keep the project in the minds of our audience.

With regard to raising larger amounts of money, we have established an agreement with the Community Foundation wherein they will collect our donations, take care of acknowledgements for gifts, verify tax law compliance and monitor pledges.

Veronique Diriker retired from her position at the Foundation and has agreed to serve on our campaign committee. Among the things she has advised us is that before we start a campaign, we must know how much money we are trying to raise. So, I have been reviewing what we have spent so far, how much we have borrowed, and how much we need to spend to complete the project.

Review of financials on the website shows that since September of 2023, we have spent \$382,204 and raised \$222,227. The remainder of \$159,977 came out of operating funds and a loan of \$98,427. Please note that these figures are as of the March 2025 financial report. More recent figures should be available at the June Board meeting. I am aware that we have received at least \$150,000 in a single recent donation.

We now need to establish what our future costs will be. We have received an estimate of \$207,598 from Gillis\Gilkerson for construction and finish work. We are waiting for an estimate of further architectural fees from Becker/Morgan. The construction estimate does not include further improvements in lighting, sound, curtains, etc. I would ask our tech sub-committee to come up with a list of needs, in priority order. Veronique and other sources I have checked suggest that a significant contingency fund be included to cover unexpected expenses, change orders, etc. She also suggested a reserve equal to a year's operating expenses, since these expenses can be expected to be higher with projected use of the facility. I am hopeful that we can begin our public campaign in September, but another thing that Veronique emphasizes is that we should approach potential major donors before we go public. We can't do this until we have our goal set.

Last, while I have to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes, I need to remind everyone that I have said numerous times that I can't do this alone. I had a major health episode last spring and another one this spring. I need a co-chair for this campaign, and a few volunteers to help out.

7. Wants and needs of the theater (new risers and legs, for example); we have \$7324 to spend from the MSAC grant and \$1500 from Smith Foundation grant

Sink clogged with paint. **Motion by Sharon to hire a plumber to fix, second by Kim. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Risers- Continuing previous e-mail discussion to purchase risers to increase the length of each row by 4 feet, adding 18 seats. There were concerns about sight lines. aisle width and back stage space for set pieces. Seating chart for tickets has to be consistent for entire season. Another option: \$3000 for 8 more seats in top row. **Motion by David to allot \$3000 to purchase 1 riser, legs for 2 risers and railing, second by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Metal shelving for warehouse will be needed. Additional storage containers for costumes needed. **Motion by Cass to allot \$2000 to warehouse +\$500 to costumes storage, seconded by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

Lighting and sound instruments are needed. **Motion by Cass to allot the remaining \$1824 towards lighting and sound, second by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

8. ASCAP renewal

Motion by Rusty for \$302.31 for ASCAP membership and fee from last show, seconded by Charlie S-T. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

9. Vote for new officers and board members

Congratulation to the Board Officers for July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

President – Darrell Mullins

Vice President – Kyle Hayes

Recording Secretary – Melissa Dasher

Corresponding Secretary – Rusty Munford

Treasure – Charlie Linton

Immediate Past-President – Matt Bogdan

10. Other new business

Motion by Cass to participate in Salisbury Pride parade June 28, 3 pm. Deadline to register is June 15th. Second by Darrell. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

David Allen purchased 4 new batteries for the Genie Lift and discovered \$3016.58 is needed to bring it up to OSHA code. Motion by Lynne to apply the \$1500 remaining grant monies towards the \$3016.58 total, seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Welcome to 2 new guests ... Dena and Andrew.

Next meeting is July 2 at 6 p.m. (moved to earlier time due to LSOA rehearsal)

Adjournment

Motion by Rusty to adjourn, second by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.