NCAC Board Minutes

May 4, 2017

Attending: Larry Greene, Joyce Kessinger, Allison Long, David Simpson, Linda Correll,

Roechelle, Kitty, Taylor McCroskey, Kaity Collis

Call to order: 7 p.m.

Financials

David presented the financial report. We received $1,529 in April for studio rentals. The electric bill has decreased and the heating in the kitchen seems to be the problem resulting in higher bills.

Board Business

*Elections*

Elections will take place in June. Tacie was originally not interested in staying in the President role but has stated she could continue in that role if the role of Secretary were filled on the Board. Larry asked those present to consider joining the Board.

*Marquee*

There was a consensus that the sign should read “Newport Community Center” with an emphasis on community. It was agreed to leave the original color scheme of blue, white, and red, but to have the sign’s background completely white (without the former blocking). Linda Correll suggested that some type of contact information be listed on the sign – the Board should determine if that should be phone or email.

Committee Updates

*Facilities*

* Larry reported that the only rooms left for rent are the carpeted room and the dance studio. A photographer and yoga classes take place in the double room.
* Allison will send out the garden plan to everyone. Joyce Kessinger suggested putting hens and chicks with the hostas in the breezeway bed. Allison asked if the Board would budget for mulch of the beds – which was okayed.

*Programs*

-Newport Cares

Larry reported that the name of the Friday lunch was still under discussion as Free Lunch Fridays gave the impression that you had to be in need to eat. The program is trying to be modeled after the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread – where anyone who walks in is given a meal no questions asked. The Sheriff’s Office, Fire Department and Rescue Squad have been invited to join in on the lunch and the community is encouraged to come together to eat and share a meal with their neighbors. The first week saw around 27 people being fed. Roechelle reported that the ambulance arriving may have caused confusion among those they delivered meals to, but said it was an enjoyable experience. Larry reported that 3-5 groups have been identified as sponsors and that the groups took turns handling the meal each week with a set menu. At the first meal, $64 in donations were given, to be added to the Virginia Tech donations and the food donation.

Ways to promote the program were discussed including sending a spotlight item to the Virginian Leader and an informational post on social media explaining the program as a community meal for everyone. Joyce suggested considering a mailer to be sent out as well.

-Blue Ridge Center Stage

Taylor McCroskey and Kaity Collis from Center Stage Theatre Company shared information about their company and handed out a synopsis of the plays they will be performing at the Open House. - They are hoping to do more well known, full-length plays in the future and discussed doing workshops with LocoArts in exchange for storage space for a couch, table and costumes. Larry will give the company the code to the building so that they can practice. It was agreed that the Board wanted the space to be used and would give Center Stage a week’s notice if the auditorium should be rented out for an event.

*Fundraising/Marketing*

Open House

* the mailer for the open house has been designed and will be mailed out the week of May 7 – Larry will assist Allison with this
* The Board determined that 50 brochures would be sufficient for the day
* Larry is confirming live music in the auditorium during the day
* Music in the cafeteria is confirmed
* Larry will contact Helen Renquist to ask if Ake would like to play in the cafeteria
* Fire trucks have been confirmed. However, the Fire Department may not have any volunteers to stay at the trucks- would be on display only.
* Preserve Giles is interested in participating, but need to confirm at their meeting. Allison asked them to please tell her if they’re coming before the event, but at this time, the Board will plan on them being there.
* Newport Mt. Olivet is working to recruit volunteers to help with sides and serving food
* Ashton has agreed to prepare four pork shoulders
* Allison will send out a press release about the event this week
* The time for story time needs to be confirmed

Rentals

-Henry Reed Fiddler’s Convention requested to play until 11 p.m. The Board agreed that this was fine as long as the neighbors were in favor.

- Linda Correll asked Larry for rental pricing and to be put on the schedule in September for the Stonecarver’s Workshop