

Community Players Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025

Call to Order 6:00 pm

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

Board Members Absent: Ken Johnson

Members Present: Kate Adkins, Brenda Allen, Ryan Bass, Tony Broadbent, Pete Cuesta, Adrienne Kadushin, Lew Kadushin, Betsy Metzger, Kel Nagel, Susan Robinson

Guests Present: Damion Sykes, Craig and Christine from Becker Morgan Group

Approval of the Minutes from January 2025

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Report previously e-mailed to the Board. Summary given by Charlie L. No questions or comments.

Architect's Report (submitted by Sharon)

Craig and Christine from Becker Morgan Group gave an update on the status of our design. Previously, the Board had voted to move forward with plan B design which is on display at Players. There were minor changes related to adding a fourth bathroom. The Septic expert came to Players and could not approve that our septic system can manage 100-150 users. We can have an additional bathroom, but the system is not designed for that many users and may back up. It is possible that we may have to wait until 2026. Test would have to be done during the flood season to determine if a fourth bathroom is possible. An option would be to have the septic pumped out after big events. Per Matt, the "bathroom line" during *A Few Good Men* was minimum and he had the men use the porta-potties. Matt sees us keeping three bathrooms until we have more funds for a fourth. Lynne stated that we should examine the different flush options that are now available on toilets. Craig stated he can have an expert get an estimate of what the system can manage. We would probably be ok based on us having the septic pumped out after each of the events, but we may not be able to get a permit for the fourth toilet. Brenda mentioned the fact that Wor-Wic auditorium holds double what we can and has double the bathrooms, so based on that, we should be ok with what we have. David suggested that we do a few productions before we decide if we need another bathroom. The updated plan will remove the fourth bathroom and relabel that space.

The Becker Morgan engineer reported to Craig that the beams are beefier than he had thought they would be. We can handle five pounds per square foot; twelve thousand pounds. This is more than what Tony Broadbent had designed and given to Craig. Craig did ask if the stage position

was permanent and was told that it is per the November board meeting vote. We are close to what we need for permits from the Fire Marshall. What we need will not be complicated to get the ok for the back of the house and costume, dressing room area. Kel said he will need to know exactly what is needed so that he can prepare for the capital campaign and apply for grants. Craig recommended that we work with Gillis Gilkerson as a contractor based on their flexibility in last-minute changes and minimum drawings. Becker Morgan will work and meet with us and the contractor to discuss what is needed.

The Board and members thanked Craig and Christine for coming to the meeting to update us.

President's Report

Thank you to everyone who participated in getting our first main season show on this stage in our building!

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen No report received

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson No report received

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. Trivia Night fundraisers over the last two years raised \$785.
2. A 50/50 raffle was held at the first four performances of A Few Good Men, raising \$520. Help is needed for the 50/50 raffle for the next four performances of A Few Good Men. Please contact Matt Bogdan if you are interested in helping with the raffle.
3. Dying for Chocolate, a murder mystery which was to be held at the restaurant **Poncho and Lefty's** in West Ocean City on February 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., has been canceled due to low tickets sales. There is a possibility of it being rescheduled for April 27.
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. So far, the event has raised \$575. If anyone would like to submit an item which would be part of the silent auction that will take place during the fair, please contact Matt Bogdan or one of the coordinators.
5. In March Matt Bogdan will be holding auditions for the show which honors the men and women of the Eastern Shore who served during WWII. Performances will be held in May at various VFWs and American Legions on the Shore. We have received a \$5000 grant from Beach to Bay Heritage Area to produce the show.
6. A Family Feud fundraiser is in the works. More details to come.
7. If you would like to help with any of these fundraisers, please contact Matt Bogdan.

Grants - Matt Bogdan No report received

Historical - Bonnie Bosies No report received

Per Matt – Some of the costumes were moved from the hallway to the Historical room during *A Few Good Men*. Frustration was expressed because the person in charge of an area should be notified before changes are made.

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford No report received

House - Betsy Metzger

Went well during our first show at Players. There are a few things to work out for flow and group control.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff Nothing to report

Marketing - Rusty Mumford No report received

Membership - Melissa Dasher

Our current membership numbers include:

91 Patrons

48 Family

41 Individual

18 Student

198 Total Members

170 Total Voting Members

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff Nothing to report

Patrons - Kel Nagel

Acquired 3 new patrons this month, including one at *A Few Good Men* performance.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel

Veronique will bring a capital campaign presentation at another time.

Production - Darrell Mullins

The Production Committee has met twice so far and have discussed the dramas and the comedies that were submitted.

We will meet again on February 20 to discuss the musicals.

The Director's Pitch Meeting will take place on February 21 at 7 pm. Members of the Board are strongly encouraged to attend that meeting in order to gain insight in advance of voting on the season.

Program - Tom Robinson No report received

Program Advertising - Tom Robinson No report received

Publicity – Pete Cuesta

All goes well, no major changes to report. I will have more in March.

Per Matt – Channel 47 is starting a new program on the arts and has contacted us to do a feature on turning our space into a theater. The Salisbury Independent newspaper also wants to do a feature and gave us a full back page ad for *A Few Good Men*, which was more than we paid for.

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten

The scholarship application has been distributed to guidance counselors, supervisor of fine arts and to theater teachers. Thank you, Rusty, for printing the entire scholarship application form in the newsletter. Applications will be reviewed in late March by the board members in order to determine the recipients.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford

A Few Good Men is sold out for next weekend. There were questions about re-selling seats at curtain if the ticket holders are not present? What if they show up late? It is stated on our ticket platform that seats may be resold at curtain, so please arrive early.

Social Media - Kate Adkins

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

Our highest interaction in January on **Instagram**: on 1/15, reached 497 people, meet the cast of *A Few Good Men*.

Our lowest interaction in January on **Instagram**: on 1/ 25, reached people, Craft Fair update.

Our highest interaction in January on **Facebook**: on 1/16 reached 1,673 people, day of *A Few Good Men* rehearsal photos.

Our lowest interaction in January on **Facebook**: on 1/21, reached 136 people, I Hate Hamlet auditions reminder.

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 not 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. *A Few Good Men* – Pete – Happy we did what we set out to do. Let’s keep the momentum going.
2. **Prep work to get the theater ready** – Matt - We did it!
3. **Selling Beer and Wine at performances** – Rusty – Went smoothly. Carded anyone not personally known with no issues. \$367.00 in gross sales and \$51 in donations. However, coolers got in the way and were awkward to work out of for concessions. Recommend we buy 2 rolling refrigerators with locking glass doors, 50” tall x 24” wide. Cost is \$500 each at Lowes. Can use Lowes credit card for 5% off. **Motion to purchase 2 by David, seconded by Rusty. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**

4. **Shore Gives More** We received a check for \$32,462.50.
5. **Other Old Business** None

New Business

1. ***A Few Good Men*** – Upcoming weekend is Sold Out!
2. **Square** – Last minute Matt set up Square in order to accept credit card payments for the Beer and Wine sales at *A Few Good Men*. This will need to be set up using the Players' bank account for future shows and may even be able to be used for membership dues and camp registration in the future.
3. **Chair donation plaque** – Placing the plaques directly on the chairs was not working, so a large wall display was made instead. Many people stopped to look at the display. We may do something similar with a capital campaign.
4. **Bartending training** – Rusty went through the training. We need more people trained so we are hosting a training on Thursday, February 6th from 6-9 pm. Cost is \$60. After discussion, **Motion by Cass for Players to pay the fee for any Players' members taking the class, seconded by David. All responded yea. Motion Passed.**
5. **I Hate Hamlet auditions** – Darrell – scheduled for February 10 & 11. Ticket platform will be set up by then. All are encouraged to come out and audition.
6. **Directors' Pitch Meeting** will be held by the Production Selection Committee on Friday, February 21 at 7pm. All members of the Board are strongly encouraged to attend. The meeting is open to all members who want to hear the potential directors' visions for the show(s) they have submitted.
7. **Possum Point Players** – Matt will be meeting with Steven Dow, President of PPP, on February 24 to discuss collaboration between our two community theater groups.
8. **WWII Show** – Audition will be held March 6 at 7pm and March 9 at 2pm. The performances will be in May at various area VFWs and American Legions.
9. **Spring Craft and Vendor Fair** – Shelbie – This will be held here on March 29 from 10am – 3pm. Vendor pay \$25 for a space. There will be a food truck. Silent auction items are needed. Volunteers are also needed.
10. **Needs and Wants for new Theater** –
 - a. Need roof repair. Rainwater dripped on stage during a performance. **Tom will look into getting a roof repair estimate.**
 - b. Need another Exit sign pointing to the right. **Rusty will order on Amazon.**
 - c. Need gravel for the back parking lot. All the cast and crew parked there, and the rain created a huge mess. **Tom will look into getting a quote.**
 - d. Need better lighting for ticket scanning, raffle table and beer & wine sales (aka lobby). **David has already installed 4 more lights.**
 - e. Need. Did we ask the folks cleaning before each show to empty the trash cans and restock soap, toilet paper and paper towels? **Betsy will check with Brittney.**
 - f. Want. Can we get new recycling trash cans? We currently have open bins that volunteers take when full. **Tom will check with the trash company to see if they will**

pick up recycling. Motion by David for Rusty to spend up to \$200 on 3 recycling trash cans, seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

- g. Want heavy black curtains to block the sound between back of raisers and the lobby. We have the curtains and now know the rafters can support their weight.
 - h. Want video cameras. We have 2. David will locate.
 - i. Need light in the back for cast & crew parking area. There are 2 not working. David will look into work lights when he can get the genie lift back there.
 - j. Want an AED. Mike Murphy is looking into a program that will donate one.
 - k. Want more yard signs with up arrows for the parking lot. Betsy will send an email to Tom, and he will order.
11. **Theater name** – Matt sent out a list of suggestion to the Board. After discussion, . Motion by Lynne to call our space **Community Players' Theater**, seconded by David. 13 responded yea. 1 responded nay. Motion Passed.
12. **Other New Business – Wi-Fi** – Craft Fair will need internet outside. Router is failing in performance space. David can replace it for about \$100.

Next Meeting is March 5 at 7 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm