

Community Players Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2025

Call to Order at 6:01 PM

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

Board Members Absent: Lynne Bratten, Kim Cuesta

Members Present: Brenda Allen, Pete Cuesta, Betsy Metzger, Ann Northam, Ray Ndirangu

Guests Present: none

Approval of April 2025 meeting minutes

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

Motion to approve as submitted by Charlie L, seconded by Tom R. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Charlie gave a review and thanked the Robinsons for the donation.

President's Report

Gratitude. To all on the Board, whom all have same intent to make sure this theater thrives. We have done so much in the past few months, and all who donated, and to our audiences.

Committee Reports

Concessions: Brenda Allen

WWII (with 3 musketeers bars) coming up

Facilities Management: Ken Johnson

Cooler – Purchased from Going Nuts weighs 527 pounds, had to lift it over the bar. It does lock and we now have the keys. Thank you to Rusty and his granddaughter for the thorough cleaning.

The new tint on doors works great.

Roofers hope to be here next week. Weather permitting.

Still need to fix the back fence.

Continuing to look into front marquee to list upcoming shows.

Motion by Sharon to cut down 2 trees to open up the sight line, seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Who is to keep bathrooms clean during rehearsals? Stage manager takes out the trash each week. Everyone who is here should help stock supplies.

The landscape looks very nice. Gravel in the back is appreciated.

Fundraising: Matt Bogdan (submitted; see report sent via email)

The fundraising committee met on April 17 and discussed the following 2025 fundraisers:

1. The March 29 Spring Craft and Vendor Fair, which raised over \$2,000 for Players. The committee discussed the strengths of the fair, as well as what we could do to improve the fair the next time we do it. Two main improvements mentioned were giving more space for the vendors and having more publicity for the event. The committee believes that another craft and vendor fair would be a good idea for the fall. Wendy will head it up again. Therefore, a vote is needed to approve the Fall Craft and Vendor Fair to be held on Saturday, October 4. Motion by Rusty to hold a Fall Craft and Vender Fair, seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.
2. The 50/50 raffles held at the *I Hate Hamlet* performances raised over \$900. Thanks to all who helped. 50/50 raffles will be held at *The Importance of Being Earnest* performances in June, and at *Annie* performances in November.
3. *World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore* will be held at the Community Players' Theater on May 16 at 7:30 p.m. As of May 3, we had over \$1000 in revenue from ad sales. Other funds will be secured via donations.
4. A Guest Bartending fundraiser, coordinated by Shelbie Thompson, is scheduled for July 10 at Brew River. Since this is not a special production requiring auditions, I believe a vote is not needed.
5. A vote is needed by the board to approve the dates for *The Lighter Side of Aging*, to be performed at our theater on July 11-13. This will be the third time the dates for this show have changed. I would prefer not to change these dates again. The board has already approved the production. These dates would put the last show the day before The Children's workshop. This will not give any time for to set up for the Workshop. After much discussion, Motion by Charlie S-T for these performances to be held Sat July 5- 7:30pm, Sun July 6- 2 pm, Fri July 11- 7:30pm, Sat July 12- 2pm. Seconded by Tom. Agreeable with Ann and Cass. All responded yea. Motion Passed.
6. A Friends and Family Feud Fundraiser, coordinated by Matt Bogdan, was scheduled for July but has been cancelled due to moving *The Lighter Side of Aging* to July.

7. A vote is needed by the board to approve the dates for a Music Revue, directed by Rusty Mumford, scheduled for August 15-17 at our theater. Dates to not interfere with Annie auditions. **Motion by Charie L to approve, seconded by David, All responded yea. Motion Passed.**
8. The Poe Show will be held in October. Venues and specific dates have not been determined. A potential new venue for performance is the Pemberton Coffee House in Salisbury.
9. A vote is needed by the board to approve the date for a radio show presented by Possum Point Players on November 23 at 2 p.m. at our theater. We will split profits. Will need our tech people? Can we get the title of show? **Motion by Cass to Table until we have more information, seconded by Lynne 2nd, All responded yea. Motion tabled.– discuss next meeting**
10. A vote is needed to approve the dates for *A Gift to Remember*, directed by Pete Cuesta, to be performed December 11-14 at our theater. These dates have been worked out with Devin's main stage show. **Motion by Lynne to approve, seconded by Darrell, All responded yea. Motion Passed.**
11. Sherri Trader Hynes expressed some concerns about fundraising, and I will share those concerns with the board prior to the meeting by forwarding to all board members the email I received from her. I received permission from Sherri to share the email.
We need to determine the best plan for moving forward. Can we continue doing lots of in house fundraisers now that we are also doing Main Stage shows in our space. The current very busy schedule is putting a strain on tech people, costumes, rehearsal time and building upkeep. The condition of the Warehouse is also affected.

Grants: Matt Bogdan (submitted; see report sent via email)

1. Beach to Bay Heritage Area granted Players \$5000 for the production of *World War II: Heroes of the Eastern Shore*. The funds are being used for venue rentals, payment to band members, the purchase of two podiums and an electronic projection screen (which the Players can use for this show and other shows), posters and postcards, radio commercials, and newspaper ads. Most of my time has been working on fulfilling the requirements of this particular grant.
2. The Maryland State Arts Council granted Players \$9,324 in August 2024. The final report is due August 15, 2025. So far we have not spent any of these funds. My suggestion for spending these funds is as follows: the purchase of a main curtain for our theater; the purchase of more risers and legs to increase the seating capacity of

our theater; the purchase of supplies for the Youth workshops; the purchase of a port a potty. Invoices are needed for these purchases.

Discussion: **All the areas that would like these funds, please get total \$ amounts for the items needed to Matt by next Wednesday. The Board will decide by e-mail vote how to best use these monies.**

3. The Maryland State Arts Council sent an explanation for the decline of a grant request of \$66,000 for lighting and sound equipment. An email of that explanation was forwarded to all board members in April.
4. I will be attending a luncheon for SWAC on June 18 at 11 a.m. I purchased two tickets for the luncheon according to the grant requirements. If anyone wants to go to this luncheon, let me know. Another requirement for this grant was for me to send photos to SWAC that will be displayed in a slide show, which I did.
5. I applied for a grant for an AED from the organization The Beat Goes On, Inc., and the grant application was approved. Thanks to Shelbie Thompson for making me aware of this organization. The AED is valued at \$1700. The donation comes with program maintenance with AED365, a wall mount, adult and youth pads, and a prescription. The organization will contact me when the AED donation has arrived and will schedule a date and time to bring the device to Players. I forwarded the email notification to all board members.

Historical: Bonnie Bosies

No report

Hospitality: Rusty Mumford

No report

House: Betsy Metzger

No Report

Lifetime Achievement Awards: Sharon Benchoff (submitted; see report sent via email)

Nothing to report.

Marketing: Rusty Mumford

Had to leave meeting early. No report given.

Membership: Melissa Dasher (submitted; see report sent via email)

Nothing to report.

Nominating: Sharon Benchoff (submitted; see report sent via email)

Will have a preliminary ballot as a handout. Nominations for Officers and Board will be closed at the May Meeting.

Patrons: Kel Nagel

No report

Performance Space: Kel Nagel

Sharon reported: New tunnel is considered temporary. Ramp may not be up to code, Bathrooms will need to be ADA updated. Will ask about ductless HVAC upstairs.

Production: Darrell Mullins

Committee met for the first Post Recommendation Meeting. Will meet a few more times

Program: Tom Robinson

Darrell, Producer, will get all to Tom for *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Program Advertising: Tom Robinson

Nothing new.

Publicity: Pete Cuesta

Waiting for Billboards and Banner, Posters are in.

Scholarship: Lynne Bratten (submitted; see report sent via email)

All six scholarship recipients have been notified of their award. The following have confirmed that they will attend the WWII program to be recognized: Dana Tyler, Orli Ospital, Caden Van Hoy and Diego. I have asked them to arrive by 7:15 so the presentation of checks can occur before the show begins.

I will be presenting the award to Lauren Sulzbach-Oliveira at Parkside on May 14, at 6 PM at her request. I also need to be there for Optimist award presentations. I have asked Lauren to attend the Friday show as well if she can.

Ava Baer will not be in town for the Friday night program as her brother is graduating from college. She has informed me that the Mardela Awards program is May15, 6 pm at Mardela high school. It would be great if someone from Players would be able to attend and make this presentation.

If anyone would like to represent us at the JMB program it is May 12 at 6 PM in the auditorium. I do need presenter information for the guidance offices for their programs. Thank you all for a good year of recognizing the youth and for the support of the scholarship program with your time and funding.

Season Tickets and Box Office: Rusty Mumford

No report

Social Media: Shelbie Thompson

No report

Old Business

1. *I Hate Hamlet* wrap up
2. *The Importance of Being Earnest* auditions
3. *WWII: Heroes of the Eastern Shore* update

4. Youth Workshop
5. Capital Campaign
6. Wants and Needs of the theater (roof; tinted doors; Nuts fridge, other items see April minutes)
7. Discussion and vote for shows for next season
8. Scholarships voted on/Anonymous donation for all scholarships approved
9. Other old business

New Business

1. *The Importance of Being Earnest* update
Great cast, ¾ blocked

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

Going well

3. *The Lighter Side of Aging* update

Discussed above

4. Youth workshops' update

Application for counselors closed. Registration has opened. Spread the word.

The Children's Workshop would like risers struck. Annie is not planning to strike chairs. Moving sound booth will be difficult. Compromise - Move bottom 3 risers only.

5. Capital Campaign update

Kel not present

6. Vote needed to approve Beach to Bay Heritage membership fee of \$100

Motion by Darrell to renew Beach to Bay Heritage membership, seconded by Sharon. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

7. Wants and needs of the theater

8. Other new business

Scissor lift is dead, need 4 batteries. Last bought 2019. \$170 each Motion by David to spend up to \$680 to replace batteries, seconded by Charlie. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Question Are all certifications up to date? Daivid will look into.

Avery Hall Insurance, celebration 100 years June 12, 4-7 pm. Need 4-5 costumed volunteers. (Player's Night) Send an e-mail blast.

Received \$10,000 from Jack & Ann Smith. Will go to building fund.

Charlie – received donation of 25 cans of paint from the Child Advocacy Center

Nominations open for Board Members.

Nominee for Vice-President: Kyle Hayes

Nominee for Recording Secretary: Melissa Dasher (continuing)

Nominee for Corresponding Secretary: Rusty Mumford (continuing)

Nominee for Treasure: Charlie Linton (continuing)

Nominees for Board of Directors: Pete Cuesta, Devin La Femina, Betsy Metzger, Heather Oland, Tom Robinson

Motion by Darrell to close nominations, seconded by Tom. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Next meeting is June 4 at 6 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Tom to adjourn, seconded by Ken. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.