

SPARC General Meeting
Monday, October 22, 2018
7:30pm Franklin School - Teachers' Lounge

Present:

Anne Poyner
Stuart Milsten
Ashley Raven
Heather Grondin
Nancy Halper
Gloria Ron-Fornes
Jesse Reyes
Amanda Grainger
Stacie Collins
Kristin Lumelleau

Meeting began at 7:32pm. Gloria welcomed everyone and gave her condolences for Julie Cahillane and her family. They are asking for donations be made to the American Cancer Society. There are other people whose family members have passed away, too and the Board should decide whether it sends a gift for everyone. Decision made that the Board members themselves would make a donation. A donation was collected by those present and Jesse will send the collected donation to American Cancer Society.

Senior Salute conflicts with the Montclair State Theater Awards this year, and most years. SPARC and SMPA put a lot of time and money into the event, but then many students and the directors have to rush out to the awards. Last year, the events did not conflict and the event went much smoother with students and teachers from both music and performing enjoying the event together. Mr. Maliszewski likes to emcee the event and he has conflicts for many other dates. June 3 is a possibility, but it conflicts with the Jefferson 4/5th grade concert. It is doubtful that many parents would have both a senior and a child in the Jefferson music program, but it would be a conflict for Mr. Mal. SPARC's Board Transition Meeting is scheduled for June 3 but could be changed to June 10 after the Meet the Performing Arts Coaches. MPAC is 6-8pm and Transition Meeting could be immediately following. Both SMPA and SPARC have decided that moving the date is best. SMPA will check with the music directors to see if there are

any other conflicts that we are not aware of. We have tentatively reserved June 3 as the alternate date. If for some reason, the SHS fall play is not nominated for a Montclair Foxy award, we could always revert back to the May 20 date. Final decision by next month.

Grant Process:

Gloria re-iterated the need to go through the grant process with liaisons. It is important for SPARC, but also the Board of Ed to know what percentage of a particular department's budget we are funding. The grant process also provides us transparency to our donors.

Minutes:

The minutes from the September 24th meeting were introduced. Stuart Milsten motioned to approve them, Stacie Collins seconded, all approved.

FUNdraising Events:

The shopping fundraiser at Quartet is fast approaching and we need to start advertising the event. Everyone should bring a friend. There will be wine and cheese (no Carolers) and a percentage of each sale will go to SPARC.

The Murder Mystery event may not be at the Elks due to potential financial problems with the venue itself. Nancy spoke for Annette who is looking into other possible venues. Possible ideas were a restaurant on a Monday, but many were opposed to that. Other thoughts were the EMT, Knights of Columbus, Visual Arts Center, the Italian American club, American Legion in New Providence, Twin Maples. Stuart recommended the Beacon Hill club and will pursue to see if it can be an option. Julie and Annette will continue to research.

Reports from liaisons:

- Heather reported from Lincoln that the Lion King is coming along. They already filled out their grant. Gloria reminded her to get her the names of cast and crew for the SPARC participation recognition certificates.
- Amanda reported from Franklin that there have not been any communications yet about Willie Wonka
- Brayton will performing Jungle Book
- Mrs. Raven spoke about Our Town at the Middle School. There is a new production team of teachers that are training. The new Principal

at LCJSMS is currently signing the grant requests. They are working with SHS on a lighting workshop (that is a grant request). The officers of the drama club are brainstorming on other ways to collaborate with the high school. Jesse asked if the middle school and the high school sound boards were compatible. Anne and Ashley were not sure

- The Summit Historical Society will have table in lobby at Our Town and they bought an ad in the program. They are really excited that the kids are getting involved with history of Summit. There will be an art installation at the show that is a black and white drawing 1900's buildings, and color water colors of current buildings. They will have t-shirts that is My Town Summit, not Our Town because of licensing issues. There will be just under 70 cast and crew. They'd like the rear projector by Nov. 21st – which is a SPARC grant.
- Anne Poyner reported on SHS: She thanked SPARC for the grant applied towards the Speech & Debate Polish Workshop by Demond. The Speech & Debate team received 3rd place at Bronx Science tournament. Peter and the Star Catcher will be a great show – she encouraged all to bring your kids. Most of the performers for this production are on the stage at once – 19 actors all on stage. There will be 3 performances of this production – Thursday, Friday and Saturday – November 15, 16, 17. Auditions for the musical, Pippin, will be right after the play starting on November 19!.
- Sound is the next big expenditure that the High School needs to invest in. The FCC sold off the frequency of the microphones so we may start picking up police frequencies. There's a lot of feedback and hums. Can the district tell us what exactly is needed? That should fall under the infrastructure budget. They were asked a few years ago and they laughed. We need to find a theater engineer - someone specialized to give a diagnosis. SPARC would rather pay to get the correct diagnosis than pay to fix the wrong thing. SPARC would like a recommendation from a theater sound engineer selected by Anne as soon as possible to understand what is needed. This year the investment should be done on the recommendation with a target for the actual purchase of equipment for next year.

- Update on the display cabinets at SHS: Three displays will get redone and will open from the front. One display will be new by the auditorium, which will rotate the most recent trophies from both performing arts and music. Preliminary estimates are \$15,000, which will be split with SMPA. We will install a plaque that says they were donated by SPARC and SMPA. We hope to have them done by Pippin. We discussed a fundraising campaign targeting the senior class parents in music and performing arts as a give back to the school. Once we have the rendering of what the displays will look like we can pursue the campaign. Also we will consider adding the name of any significant donor to the plaque. We will need to decide on the amount we consider “significant”.

Preliminary Feedback from SPARCtoberfest:

Kristin and Amanda reported that the biggest problem was that there were not many people there: about 70 tickets sold, 60 attended. Without attendance, it's very tough to make money on tickets, silent auction, etc. Others interjected that volunteers and donations are down across the board - with other organizations, elementary schools, etc. Other events do have successful live auctions, but the key is having an experienced auctioneer. Proceeds from the event were over \$11,000, which was down about \$4000 from last year. Every year for the past 5 years proceeds have gone down. For the first time, we got corporate sponsors for the event, totaling \$2750. We also did a key raffle for the first time - which raised \$880. The winner did not turn their key properly, though, so we had to draw the winner's name out of a bowl. It worked out fine, though and interjected some excitement into the evening. The hotel was difficult to deal with - antiquated audio/visual, bad wifi, sloppy setup, and too expensive. To conclude the event, an email will be sent encouraging people to donate if they were not able to attend or did not win the items they wanted. We want to highlight the Fund A Need (FAN) aspect. Many may not understand what SPARC supports and FAN spells it out. This may get people to donate if they know the money is going to support their specific areas of interest. Email could highlight FAN. The issue with donating to a specific area of interest is that SPARC has to manage more restricted funds and that may impede our ability to deliver grants in a timely manner. We will see the impact of FAN .

Financials:

Jesse reported that SPARC has about \$46,000 in the bank which is enough to fund what we need for this year. See attached financials

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.