



Meeting: January 16, 2019, Sherwood Center

Members Present:

Molly Grimsley – Chair
Patricia Gallagher – Vice Chair
Jeff Seffens - Treasurer
Ruth Bandler – Secretary
Clayton Austin
Carol Caputo
Sharon Chang
Steve Latourette
Mary Lechter

Members Absent, Excused:

Deborah Dillard
Patricia Hussey (not fully on board yet)

Members Absent, Unexcused:

Kelly Herman

Staff:

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager
David Meyer - Mayor

Guest:

Ann S. Birkelbach, Asst. Director, Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies, GMU, College of Humanities and Social Studies

Molly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Ann S. Birkelbach, Asst. Director, Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies, GMU

Molly said she had conversations with Ann a few months ago. Ann said the center is looking for multi-cultural arts programming with the city, so Molly invited Ann to the meeting to explain what the center does and to discuss ways the center might work with us. Ideas for collaborative arts programs included a day-long folk-life festival, to be held in the city, featuring local performers, possibly within the Spotlight Festival with a tie-in with GMU's International Week. Molly suggested finding a venue for a local art show and/or lecture series. Megan asked if Ann was aware of any performing artists for the Old Town Hall Performance Series. Ann will refer Megan to a colleague. Steve suggested an Islamic Film Festival. Mayor Meyer suggested a local Korean sculptor whose work he has seen; she's relocating and may be looking for a new home for some of her pieces. Steve suggested a culinary arts program. Molly thanked Ann for the briefing.

Review of Minutes for December, 2018

The December minutes were reviewed. Minor edits were made.

- A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report – Jeff Seffens, Treasurer

- Jeff reviewed the balance sheet and profit and loss statement.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer's report.

Announcements – Megan DuBois, Cultural Arts Manager

- Megan announced that she's working with the library on a lecture program about the preservation of African-American spirituals, to be held February 6 and 13.
- Molly said she received information about the "2019 Art Works for Virginia Conference," to be held in Henrico, VA, on January 30. Megan said to let her know if anyone is interested in attending.

Old Business

ArtScreen – Jeff Seffens

- Jeff reported that the event was a big success, both in attendance and donations received.

Public Art Committee (PAC) – Carol Caputo, Megan DuBois

- Carol said the 2 pieces, the "Girl with a Dog" and the "Peace Bird," were both approved by the city council. She suggested a dedication ceremony during the Spotlight Festival.
- Carol said the Westmore Dog Park will open soon; it may be a good location for public art. Molly suggested a "Paint Your Pet" fundraiser to raise funds for public art. Carol will coordinate.
- Megan said last month that our PAC does not fit the requirements for a PAC as stated in the city's Public Art Policy document. Carol said we will bring the PAC into compliance.

Action: Carol will look into and coordinate public art ideas for the Westmore Dog Park.

Action: Carol and the Public Art Committee will bring the committee into compliance with the city's Public Art Policy document.

Development/Sponsorship updates – Pat Gallagher, Megan DuBois

- Megan said the donor database will be updated and available soon.
- Megan said she has not heard from TD Bank; she will follow up with them.

Mason and Business Award Nominations – Mary Lechter

- A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to award this year's Mason Award to Jo Ormesher and Business Award to the Smith twins (Craig and Jeff), the proprietors of the Twins Ace Hardware store.
- The members suggested we issue a press release.
- Mary said this year's budget is \$750, to cover invitations, plaques and food. She's hoping Earth Fare will donate the food. Molly suggested obtaining a liquor license (\$55) so we can serve champagne.
- Mary said this is a good opportunity to create a planning calendar for future Mason Award events.

Action: Sharon will notify the Smith twins to expect an official award letter within the next few weeks.

Action: Molly will notify Jo and the Smith twins and ask them for their invite list. Jeff will send Molly a prior award notification letter to use as an example.

Action: Megan will draft a press release for the Mason Award event.

Action: Mary will start working on a planning calendar for future Mason Award events.

Grants update – Megan DuBois

- Megan said the council was notified, the press release was issued, and all recipients have received their first payment.

Ushering – Clayton Austin

- Vacancies - Clayton said there are still a few vacancies on the usher schedule and he circulated the schedule.

- Bottled water for sale – Clayton said we sold 3 bottles of water. He attributed the low sales to the cold weather, the lack of an intermission, and the out-of-the-way location of the table with the water (in the middle of the downstairs room). It was agreed to move the water bottles to the front entrance table so people see it as they walk in, and possibly a small table upstairs as well, if there is room.
- Lighting for performers - Megan said this is on hold; the consultant is out for a while for paternity leave.

Business cards update – Megan DuBois

- Megan distributed cards during the meeting.

CoA Vacancies update – Megan DuBois

- Megan said Patricia Hussey was appointed earlier this week as a new member of the CoA.
- Molly said that Jessica confirmed by email that she resigned from the CoA; she said she thought she had resigned a long time ago.

Strategic plan update – Molly Grimsley

- Molly said she will put together a draft, including all of the input received from the members, and send it to the officers for input and review.
- Mayor Meyer suggested we brief the council on the Strategic Plan, and mention the public art policy, the two pieces that were just approved by the council, and other recent accomplishments. He said we are engaged in a lot of good projects, and the council should be informed/reminded, because “arts is part of our community development.”

Performing arts venue – Sharon Chang

- Sharon asked that this topic be added to the agenda. She said there is approximately 30K sq ft of empty space at the old Lotte building, and asked if it was feasible to convert it to a performing arts venue. The mayor said the council is looking at various options; they would all require substantial funds.

New Business

Chocolate Lover's event – Megan DuBois

- Molly asked if we served coffee or tea last year. The members felt that water bottles were sufficient.
- The members said it was a good idea for the CoA to submit a basket for the raffle, ArtScreen-related.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to create an ArtScreen-themed basket to donate to the Chocolate Lover's Festival raffle. A maximum of \$35 was approved to cover \$25 for Cinema Arts movie tickets and \$10 for miscellaneous items. Megan will create the basket.
- Pat said we need to implement a process to record action items after each event to aid in planning for future years.

Action: Materials for the Chocolate Lover's basket should be submitted to Megan by January 18. Jeff will provide DVDs of the films that we have duplicates for, and some movie-style candy bars.

Megan will create and submit the basket.

Action: Members will start recording action items after each event to aid in planning for future years. Megan will maintain the list.

Speakers – Molly Grimsley, Chair

- Molly suggested that we let Megan and her know if we're aware of “obscure arts organizations” who might want to speak with us.

Partner Updates

PRAB – Pat Gallagher

- Megan attended the last meeting and briefed them about our recent public art pieces.

- Cathy Salgado talked about the city/county partnership to redevelop the health center property adjacent to the Sherwood Center. It's still in the planning phase, there are no funds yet. Eventually, they will ask for a rep from the CoA.

Art League – Carol Caputo

- Carol said there is a new member reception on February 21. She'll send the information to Molly to add to the CoA rolling calendar.

CFBA – Ruth Bandler

- Ruth asked that any discussions about new performance venues not be limited to "theater," but also specifically mention music (and dance). Mary asked Ruth to send her some specs on requirements for a music venue. Mary will first send Ruth the document that her committee submitted to the council last year, since it did include mention of music performance requirements.

GMU – Mary Lechter

- Mary brought the January GMU calendar. She said there is a new program director who is interested in promoting diversification. There is a new family series coming to the Center for the Arts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.