



Meeting: April 16, 2019, Sherwood Center

**Members Present:**

Molly Grimsley – Chair  
Patricia Gallagher – Vice Chair  
Jeff Seffens - Treasurer  
Ruth Bandler – Secretary  
Carol Caputo  
Sharon Chang  
Deborah Dillard  
Mary Lechter  
Jessica Russo Revand

**Members Absent, Excused:**

Clayton Austin  
Kelly Herman  
Patricia Hussey  
Steve Latourette

**Members Absent, Unexcused:**

**Staff:**

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager

**Guests:**

Maria Cornell, Nicholas Cornell

Molly called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**Introduction of Guests – Maria Cornell, Nicholas Cornell**

This mother-son pair came to discuss their recent publication, a book called *The Boy and the Tree*, a story for children ages 4-10 about how overwhelming it can feel to move to a new place. Commission members and the pair discussed ways of introducing the book into the schools and community.

**Review of Minutes for March 2019**

The March 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.

**Announcements – Megan DuBois, Cultural Arts Manager**

- Megan reminded the members that the Spotlight Festival starts next weekend. She encouraged the members to attend the Opening Reception on April 26, 7pm, in Old Town Hall.

- Megan distributed Spotlight folding brochures to the members.

**Old Business**

*ArtScreen Recap – Jeff Seffens*

- Jeff discussed the recent ArtScreen event, *The Buddy Holly Story* movie. He estimated an attendance of 50. Two GMU Film and Video Studies students presented short films at the beginning of the evening. The audience was very engaged and asked the students several questions about their films.
- Jeff said the current format of presenting a series of movies spread throughout the year seems to be working very well, and we were well under budget for the series. We will continue that format next year and plan on a total of 4 ArtScreen events (we had 3 this year). One of the events will be a joint event with the Old Town Hall Performance Series (OTHPS).

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

- Carol said the committee met on April 8 and discussed the following –
- The Peace Bird, for Van Dyck Park – We submitted the deposit; the piece should be completed by August. Armistice's daughter, Janice, is planning the dedication, which is expected to be later in the fall.
  - The Girl with the Dog, for Old Town Square – This piece was ordered and should be in place by Memorial Day.
  - New dog park at the site of the former Westmore Elementary School – A dedication is planned for June 15. Deb and Molly plan on creating a mosaic near the site.
  - Traffic Signal Box Painting – We're waiting to find out the locations of the boxes. Megan said she wants to partner with GMU.
  - Public Art Policy re: Committee Membership – Next fall, the committee expects to review the policy regarding the current requirement to include outsiders on the committee.

*Development/Sponsorship updates – Pat Gallagher, Megan DuBois*

- Pat G. said Pat Hussey joined the committee; they could use 1-2 more people.
- Pat G. said the committee is almost finished reviewing the donor database received from the city; they will start focusing on people who donated in the past but not last year, and businesses.
- Molly suggested sending targeted appeal letters to people who attended our past events, e.g., "you enjoyed our movies last year, and we hope you'll come back this year."

*Paint Nite fundraiser – Deb Dillard, Megan DuBois*

- Deb discussed the details for the week-long event. This is "CoA's event;" a percentage of the sales will be given to the Commission. Megan has flyers promoting the event. VCA (Animal Hospitals) is advertising this event to its clients. Deb said she has already received some reservations for May 1.

*Mason Award Nominations Recap – Mary Lechter, Jeff Seffens, Megan DuBois*

- Mary said the new format, holding this event in conjunction with an OTHPS event, worked very well. Attendance was approximately 100 people. For next year, we should consider whether or not we want to hold this during the Spotlight Festival.

*Ushering final update and lighting update – Clayton Austin, Megan DuBois*

- Molly asked the members about this year's trial of selling water during the events. The consensus was that it didn't go over well and we should not continue it next year.
- Megan said she had no update on lighting for performers during OTHPS events.

*Commission on the Arts (CoA) Vacancies update – Megan DuBois*

- Megan said she had no updates.

*Strategic plan update – Molly Grimsley*

- Molly is waiting for some available time to combine the comments into a second draft. She will then solicit additional feedback by email from the officers and Megan, and then send a "tighter" draft to all of the members for input and review.

**Action: Molly will prepare a second draft and send it to the officers and Megan for review. Molly will then send a “tighter” version to all of the members for input and review.**

## **New Business**

### *Korean Seniors Art Exhibit – Megan DuBois*

- Megan said she is working with Korean citizens in the community to present an exhibit at the Sherwood Center in late May-Jun, which will document this group's experiences. An opening reception and workshop are scheduled for May 29.

### *Budget Review – Jeff Seffens*

- Jeff said we ideally want to approve next year's budget in June. He asked the members to start thinking about the line items and be prepared to discuss next year's budget at the May CoA meeting.

**Action: Members will be prepared to discuss next year's budget at the May CoA meeting.**

### *OTHPS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Megan DuBois*

- Megan distributed a tentative schedule for next year to the members. Megan suggested we form a CoA committee to plan events and/or parties to accompany OTHPS events. Pat G. volunteered to handle that. Ruth reminded Molly that we previously discussed inviting a council member to each event to encourage them to be invested in CoA programs.

- Mary said she will coordinate the Mason Awards event again next year.

### *Fall Festival – Molly Grimsley, Deb Dillard*

- Molly reminded the members that she will be out of town at that time, and we need a coordinator for this event. Megan said she will start a volunteer list.

- Chalk It Up 2 Art – Deb said CoA is sponsoring this sidewalk chalk contest, an open air art gallery. She distributed and discussed her detailed information document about the event.

- Portrait Fundraiser – Molly said she obtained permission from the National Portrait Gallery to use a life-size picture of Amy Sherald's portrait of Michelle Obama. Fall Festival visitors will be able to take their pictures “with” the former first lady. Molly said we will not cut out the first lady's head, as we did last year with Elvis Presley's portrait, so if anyone has suggestions for cut-outs, please let Molly know.

**Action: Megan will start a volunteer list for the Fall Festival.**

**Action: Members should relay to Molly any ideas for portrait cut-outs for the Fall Festival.**

### *Field trip – Sharon Chang*

- Sharon reminded the members of her proposed field trip to Dumbarton Oaks. The optimal time of year is April or May. The consensus was that it was too late for this year; we'll revisit this next year. Sharon also mentioned the art collection at the nearby Oak Hill Cemetery.

### *Housekeeping chores – Molly Grimsley*

- Megan said she will handle obtaining CoA badges for Deb, Mary, and the two newest members, Pat Hussey and Jessica Russo Revand.

- Megan said she's been unable to find the admin password for the CoA Facebook page, so she's likely going to start a new one.

**Action: Molly will ask Laura Hills if she has the admin password for the CoA Facebook page.**

### *Downtown Visioning Committee – Molly Grimsley*

- Molly said she was contacted by Paul Nabti, City Planning Division Chief. He would like CoA input for this committee. Molly said Deb will be our primary representative to this committee, Molly will be our secondary representative, and Megan is the staff representative.

### *Performance Venue Committee – Mary Lechter*

- Mary summarized the discussion from the committee meeting held immediately before the CoA meeting. The members felt that we should take the following actions promptly, to insure our input is received before city planning proceeds much further – 1) condense and clean up the existing and recently amended white paper, 2) check the mayor’s availability and meet with him re: guidance on how to proceed, and 3) try to set up a time to present this at a council work session, perhaps along with the CoA annual report that the mayor already asked us to present.

**Action: 1) Condense and clean up the existing and recently amended performance venue white paper, 2) check the mayor’s availability and meet with him re: guidance on how to proceed, and 3) try to set up a time to present this at a council work session, perhaps along with the CoA annual report that the mayor already asked us to present.**

## **Partner Updates**

### *PRAB – Pat Gallagher*

- Pat G said PRAB is working on a water solution for the new dog part, which is scheduled for a June 15 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

### *Art League – Carol Caputo*

- Carol informed us of upcoming events.

### *CFBA (City of Fairfax Band Association) – Ruth Bandler*

- Jeff discussed the upcoming Main Street Community Band concert which will be held during the Spotlight Festival.

### *GMU – Mary Lechter*

- Mary informed us of upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.