



Meeting: January 21, 2020, Sherwood Center

Members Present:

Molly Grimsley – Chair
Patricia Gallagher – Vice Chair
Jeff Seffens - Treasurer
Ruth Bandler – Secretary
Clayton Austin
Carol Caputo
Sharon Chang
Deborah Dillard
Melissa Grow
Patricia Hussey
Steve Latourette
Mary Lechter
Jessica Russo Revand

Members Absent, Excused:

Kelly Herman

Members Absent, Unexcused:

None

Staff:

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager

Visitors:

None

Guests:

Robert Stalzer, City Manager

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

Melissa Grow, new commissioner - Molly introduced new member Melissa Grow.

City Manager, Robert Stalzer - Molly introduced the City Manager, Robert Stalzer. Robert discussed his current efforts to prepare a budget for recommendation to the mayor and council. He has a focus on economic development including a possible downtown performing arts venue. Sharon raised the issue that we're tasked with recommending public art, but once we do, we experience many roadblocks which delay installation by many, many months. She asked for his support on this. He asked us to identify the roadblocks for him. Molly suggested the Public Art Committee meet with Robert to brief him on the roadblocks, i.e., what do we want to do and what is preventing us from doing it. He suggested we provide him a bullet list for the meeting and suggested we include some other city staff.

Action: The Public Art Committee will prepare a bullet list of roadblocks experienced in getting approved public art installed and will meet with the City Manager and other city staff to discuss the issues.

Review of Minutes for December 2019

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 file the report for audit.

Announcements – Megan DuBois, Cultural Arts Manager

- Megan said she is very busy with upcoming activities. She mentioned some of them, including a Fall for the Book Pop-Up Lit Night on Jan 30 at Old Town Hall and a Chocolate Lovers event with CFBA ensembles providing music on Feb 2 in the “liquid chocolate tent” in Old Town Square.

Old Business

ArtScreen – Jeff Seffens

- Jeff said that our recent movie showing, *Loving Vincent* on January 17, was very successful, with our largest ArtScreen audience, 80 people; donations of \$86; and good audience participation with lots of interesting questions during the post-movie discussion.

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

- Budget request for public art – Carol said she had lunch with the mayor to talk about his ideas for more public art in the city. He made edits to the letter the committee prepared requesting a budget increase of an additional \$20,000 for public art. Molly and Carol signed the revised letter tonight and will resend it to the mayor. He will circulate it among city staff and said he'll be happy to talk with us again.

- Victorian Square dog sculpture – Carol said this is now in place.

- Painted signal boxes – This is on hold until the weather is warmer.

- Peace Bird – Carol said the artist has now started working on the piece.

- Mosaic at the dog park – Megan said we need to send a proposal to Cathy Salgado.

- PAC composition – Carol said the adjustment of the PAC composition to adhere to the city's public art policy will be made as additional members come on board.

Action: A proposal to install a mosaic at the dog part should be submitted to Cathy Salgado.

Development/Sponsorship updates – Kelly Herman, Megan DuBois

- Molly said, as requested by the Rotary Club, she asked them for their annual donation.

- Megan said Kelly told her that she's looking into setting up a matching donation program with her employer.

Mason Award updates – Mary Lechter, Jeff Seffens, Megan DuBois

- Mary distributed a handout outlining the plans for the awards presentation including suggested candidates for the individual and business awards, and she asked for any additional nominations. The members discussed additional candidates. Motions were made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the selection of Rick Dickson and Epicure for the individual and business awards respectively. Deb said she will provide a write-up about Rick. Jessica will provide a write-up about Epicure. Megan will send them an example from last year. Molly will send letters to Rick and Epicure informing them of their selection for the award and asking them to provide their invite lists. Mary said we'll need someone to introduce them during the ceremony. Jeff said he would take care of obtaining the plaques.

Action: Deb will provide a write-up about Rick. Jessica will provide a write-up about Epicure. Megan will send them an example from last year. Molly will send letters to Rick and Epicure informing them of their selection for the award and asking them to provide their invite lists. We'll need someone to introduce them during the ceremony. Jeff will obtain the plaques.

Performance space – Mary Lechter, Jessica Russo Revand

- Jessica updated the members on discussions about a potential performance space/theater at the Fairfax City Center West location, to possibly include an 800-seat theater and a flexible space with 250 seats.

OTHPS (Old Town Hall Performance Series) / Chocolate performance – Megan DuBois, Clayton Austin

- Clayton said we're set with ushers through May 1.

- Megan distributed a handout of proposed dates for 2020/2021. After much discussion about the proposed dates, there was agreement to modify the proposal to add October 16 and remove February 12.

- Megan asked for any suggestions for performers for next year to be sent to Megan by the February meeting.

- Pat H said we should create a new committee to recommend / provide suggestions regarding performers, and the suggestions should consider diversity.

Action: Members should submit any suggestions for the 2020/2021 OTHPS performers to Megan by the February meeting.

American Shakespeare Center update – Megan DuBois

- Megan said there are still some tickets left.

GMU Programs at OTH/Mason Arts at OTH – Megan DuBois

- Megan said the next program is February 12.

Literary Prize – Sharon Chang

- Sharon distributed a handout summarizing the details for the literary competition. She wants to write a jazzy promo to attract participants. Megan suggested she do it by next Friday so it could be a program insert for the Chocolate Lovers Festival. The members expressed interest in publishing the winning document, e.g., on the commission's website. No decision was reached.

Action: Sharon will draft a promo for the literary competition by next Friday. Megan will have it inserted in the Chocolate Lovers Festival programs.

Governance – Pat Hussey

- Pat H said meetings for a SWOT discussion have been held with all but 1 commissioner. Pat H still plans to provide a summary report to the CoA at the February meeting. Based on feedback from the SWOT report, she will produce a draft Commissioner's Handbook that will include roles and responsibilities, job descriptions and information pertinent to the operations of the Commission on the Arts.

Election Sticker – Megan DuBois

- Megan said she has no updates. She's waiting to hear from the election coordinator what they need from us.

Diversity Committee – Clayton Austin

- Clayton said he didn't have much to report yet. He distributed a handout showing changing demographics in the city over time. He's looking for a "hook" or "entry" into this project and asked the members to forward him any ideas that they have.

Action: Members should forward Clayton any ideas for starting work on improving diversity.

Virginia Arts Conference/Advocacy Day – January 29/30

- Clayton and Pat G are going to Part 1. There will be a session on diversity. Molly said the commission will fund their attendance; Jeff concurred that we have available funds.

New Business

July 4 National Anthem – Megan DuBois

- Megan said that now that CFB is no longer performing at the July 4 evening fireworks event, another source is needed to perform the national anthem. She said, last year a child sang it and did an excellent job, so she'd like to continue having a child sing it. She plans to have a contest during Spotlight. She asked if the commission was interested in helping with it, specifically to help with the judging. A motion was made, seconded and passed for the commission to help Megan with this effort.

Small Area Planning Committee – Megan DuBois (see email from Megan to CoA Jan 16 2:01pm)

- Megan notified us by email that Paul Nabti, City Chief for Planning, is holding a meeting for members of all city boards and commissions to provide their thoughts on the development of Small Area Plans for Old Town and Northfax. Megan suggests that some members attend the meeting on January 29, 6:30, at City Hall, and let Megan and Molly know if you are going.

Action: Members should attend the meeting on January 29, 6:30, at City Hall, and let Megan and Molly know if you are going.

Dumbarton Oaks Field Trip – Sharon Chang

- Sharon reminded the members that we talked about a field trip to Dumbarton Oaks last year and decided to postpone it this year. Late April/early May is the optimal time for a visit. Megan said she is unavailable every weekend during May; we won't have a van without Megan.

Action: Members should look at their calendars and be prepared to commit yes/no and provide their availability for specific dates by the February meeting.

Partner Updates

PRAB (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board) – Pat Gallagher

- Pat G said the PRAB met to plan their next budget request. Although they may have to make cuts, they have included \$20K for a study on building a city theater.

Art League – Carol Caputo

- Carol announced the dates for the next show and reception. They are in the CoA rolling calendar.

CFBA (City of Fairfax Band Association) – Ruth Bandler

- Ruth discussed upcoming performances, including an invitation for CFB to perform at this year's Association of Concert Bands Annual Convention, to be held in Virginia Beach.

GMU – Mary Lechter

- Mary discussed the GMU Center for the Arts spring calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.