



Meeting: December 17, 2019, 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
Kelly Herman
Patricia Hussey
Steve Latourette
Jessica Russo Revand

Members Absent, Excused:

Mary Lechter

Members Absent, Unexcused:

None

Staff:

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager

Visitors:

None

Guests:

None

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

Review of Minutes for November 2019

The November 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 submitted her budget request for the upcoming year. She's looking to hire an assistant to replace Emily Craine who is leaving to focus on her studies.

Old Business

Strategic Plan, vote – Molly Grimsley

- A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the strategic plan.

Action: Megan will get us on the council's work schedule to present and discuss the plan.

ArtScreen – Jeff Seffens

- Jeff announced that the next event will be *Loving Vincent* on January 17. Carol will inform the Art League members.

Action: Carol will inform the Art League members about the *Loving Vincent* ArtScreen event.

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

- Painted signal boxes – A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the 3 submissions that the public art committee selected. There are 3 signal boxes identified. Each of them will have one art submission applied to it.

- Peace Bird – Megan said everything is on hold for Van Dyck Park due to the master plan discussions.

- Mural at the Scout on the Circle – Megan said the mural is up but not yet finished.

- Painted piano – Megan said the piano is on hold until the spring because it will “last longer” when the weather is better. The plan is for it to go near the splash pad at Old Town Square.

- Budget request for public art – In response to the mayor's suggestion at the November CoA meeting, Carol said a letter to the mayor and city council asking for an additional \$20,000 for public art is being drafted. Carol will contact the mayor for additional guidance regarding the thoughts of the commission, e.g., permanent vs. temporary art.

Action: Carol will contact the mayor for additional guidance regarding the thoughts of the commission regarding new public art in the city.

Development/Sponsorship updates – Kelly Herman, Megan DuBois

- Kelly announced that Deb volunteered to join the committee.

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

- Molly said that Mary said there will be a plan in place by the January meeting. The members will vote on the nominees at that time.

Action: Members should be prepared to vote on the individual and business Mason Award nominees at the January meeting.

COA Vacancies update – Megan DuBois

- Megan announced that Melissa Grow has just been selected as a commissioner.

Performance space – Mary Lechter, Jessica Russo Revand

- Jessica said she attended a meeting to discuss requirements for a performance space/theater at the Fairfax City Center West location. The developer's representative, Web Management, discussed plans for a 600-800 seat theater and black box theater.

- Jessica said it is important now for the arts community to speak with one voice about the performance space needs. Megan said she plans to organize an arts roundtable during Spotlight.

- Jessica suggested the commissioners ask the city for funds to purchase infrastructure items, e.g., lights, sound equipment, for arts groups to use when they perform at locations such as the Sherwood Center and Blenheim. This would eliminate the need for such groups to have to purchase their own equipment. Commissioners talked about the need for resources to store, transport, and maintain this equipment. Pat G suggested starting a commission wish list for such big-ticket items. Molly asked Jessica to work with Mary and start a wish list.

Action: Jessica will work with Mary and start a wish list for big ticket purchases.

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

- Clayton circulated the usher schedule for commissioners to review their commitments. He said last week's event drew such a large crowd that some people were sitting downstairs.

Recap of OTH December concert reception – Mary Lechter, Pat Gallagher

- Molly thanked Pat G, Megan, and Megan's assistant, Emily Craine, for a nice job in organizing the reception. Pat G said the reception was under budget. Carol said we should rethink future reception plans to ensure that performers can participate. Performers typically linger upstairs after the concert, packing up their equipment and talking with audience members. By the time they come downstairs to the reception, it's pretty much over.

Action: Commissioners should come up with ways to insure performers are able to attend receptions.

American Shakespeare Center update – Megan DuBois

- Megan said tickets are selling.

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

- Megan said this past Wednesday's program was fantastic.

Vision Downtown update – Deb Dillard, Megan DuBois

- Deb said the committee discussions are done.

Literary Prize – Sharon Chang

- Sharon said the kickoff event in the City Hall atrium was a big success; the crowd was very enthusiastic. Sharon said more details are needed before a formal announcement is issued, e.g., guidelines, criteria, judging standards. Sharon, Steve and Deb will meet to discuss this.

- Molly asked Sharon to provide details so we can post this on the Facebook page.

Action: Sharon, Steve and Deb will meet to discuss details for the literary prize.

Action: Sharon will provide details to Molly so we can post this on the Facebook page.

Governance – Pat Hussey

- Pat H said meetings for a SWOT discussion have been scheduled with all but 2 commissioners. Pat H hopes to provide a summary report to the CoA at the February meeting.

Election Sticker – Megan DuBois (see handout)

- Megan distributed a handout describing the election sticker project. She asked the commissioners if they wanted to create a separate working group for this event or give it to the public art committee. The decision was to create a separate working group. Steve, Jeff and Molly agreed to participate with Megan.

Facebook page – Deb Dillard, Molly Grimsley

- Megan said the new Facebook page is up and running. Megan said she was made aware of a city regulation that such social media projects must be run/managed by city staff, e.g., Megan. Deb said she envisions the need for quick turn-around on posts and the expansion to other forms of social media, and this will require efforts of multiple people, not just Megan.

Action: Deb will talk with Chris Cohen, city Community Relations Specialist, about this issue.

Megan will send an initial email to Chris to introduce Deb.

Gala – Megan DuBois, Molly Grimsley

- Molly said we will not be buying a table. Anyone wishing to attend can purchase individual tickets.

New Business

Creation of New Committee – Diversity Inclusion Workgroup – Clayton Austin, Molly Grimsley (see attached)

- Clayton said he approached Megan and Molly to suggest the formation of this workgroup. He volunteered to chair it. They liked his plans.
- Clayton distributed his thoughts to the commissioners and asked for volunteers to join the group; Sharon and Jessica volunteered.

Virginia Arts Conference/Advocacy Day – January 29/30

- Molly described these events and asked members to let Molly, Jeff and Megan know if they want to attend. This will help us track the cost.

Action: Members who wish to attend the Virginia Arts Conference or Advocacy Day should let Molly, Jeff and Megan know.

Neighborhood PR ideas – Clayton Austin

- Clayton said he distributed flyers and bookmarks to each of his neighbors and said it was an easy way to promote our events. Megan said she can provide CoA envelopes for anyone wishing to do this.

Pre- and Post- ideas for remaining OTHPS concerts – Pat Gallagher, Mary Lechter

- Pat G asked members to send her ideas for future receptions.

Action: Members should send Pat G pre- and post- ideas for the remaining concerts.

Partner Updates

PRAB (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board) – Pat Gallagher

- Pat G discussed PRAB activities.

Art League – Carol Caputo

- Carol said the holiday reception was a huge success with great attendance.

CFBA (City of Fairfax Band Association) – Ruth Bandler

- Ruth discussed the December performances for the youth and adult bands.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.