



Meeting: February 18, 2020, Sherwood Center

Members Present:

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

Members Absent, Excused:

Deborah Dillard
Kelly Herman

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 January 2020

The January 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 the invitations for the Mayor's Ball have gone out.

- Megan said the budget went to the council last week but she does not know if it contained the extra \$20K requested for public art.

Old Business

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

- Painted signal boxes – Megan will bring the wrapper to the next CoA meeting to show us what it looks like.

- Painted piano – Megan said the location will be near the splash pad at Old Town Square. Megan will check with the staff on the status of the move of the piano.

- New mural project – Megan announced that the developer for the area on route 50, across from the Red Lobster, has proposed to add a mural to the east side of the grocery store. The city's Board of Architecture Review (BAR) approved the project pending the review by the CoA. Megan distributed copies of the mock-up to the commissioners. Some commissioners raised concerns with the design, e.g., the inclusion of DC landmarks, and the inability to see all the details in the small pictures we received for review. A motion was made, seconded and passed with one abstention to give Megan permission to talk with the developer and express what we did and did not like.

- Meeting day – Carol said some on the committee can't meet on Mondays, so she asked members to let her know their availability.

- Public art funding – Carol said councilmember Janice Miller is trying to get public art funding into the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Action: Megan will bring the wrapper for the painted signal boxes to the next CoA meeting to show us what it looks like.

Action: Megan will check with the staff on the status of the move of the piano.

Action: Public Art Committee members should let Carol know what days of the week they are available for committee meetings.

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

- Mary summarized the status of the event. The CoA agreed to include plaques for the Literary Prize winners. Jeff will send an example of the wording style to Sharon so she can create the wording for the Literary Prizes. Jeff will also find out if the vendor can etch the winner's name for the Literary award onto the plaque in the one week between judging and presentation.

Action: Jeff will send an example of the wording style for the Mason Award plaques to Sharon. Sharon will draft the wording for the Literary Prize plaques.

Action: Jeff will find out if the vendor can etch the winner's name for the Literary award onto the plaque in the one week between judging and presentation.

Performance space – Mary Lechter, Jessica Russo Revand

- Jessica said she wanted a stop gap measure to provide a sound system, lighting, etc., for various venues such as the Sherwood Center. Megan reminded her of our previous discussion where she said we don't have enough logistical support in place, e.g., we have no storage space for the equipment, nor anyone to maintain it and run it. A full-time staff person would be needed. Molly suggested we hire a consultant to do a study for us, from Megan's budget, and just for the Sherwood Center. Megan did not commit to such a study.

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

- Molly said the Chocolate Lovers event was a huge success; several loads of extra chairs were brought in to seat the larger than expected audience. She also said the crowd moved too slowly at the chocolate tables, creating a large bottleneck and delaying the start of the music. Suggestions were discussed for next year, e.g., have the chocolates distributed by servers rather than have audience members linger over each item while deciding what to pick, and separating the chocolate tables to split the crowds into multiple but shorter lines.

- OTHPS - Clayton said turnout was very good for last week's OTHPS, the Craig Gildner Trio.

- ArtScreen – Clayton said the next ArtScreen event, “The Big Night,” will be on March 20. CFB has been invited to perform at this year’s Association of Concert Bands annual convention that night in Virginia Beach, so some of the ArtScreen committee will be unable to attend ArtScreen. Additional help will be needed.

Action: For next year’s Chocolate Lovers event, decide on ways to distribute the chocolates more efficiently and eliminate the bottlenecks.

Action: Members should let Clayton and Jeff know if they can help with the March 20 ArtScreen event.

American Shakespeare Center update – Megan DuBois

- Megan said volunteers are needed for load-in and load-out.

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

- Megan said the March event was cancelled because the program leader left GMU. The program will resume next year.

Literary Prize – Sharon Chang

- Sharon said the contest has been publicized to various local schools and community groups. She asked how we can reach home-schooled students. Pat G said she would look for a contact. Megan said she has a list of small private schools.

Action: Pat G will look for a contact for home-schooled students. Megan will give Sharon a list of small private schools.

Governance – Pat Hussey

- Pat H she finished the SWOT report and sent it to Molly for review. Pat H said a high-level summary is that we are doing a lot but we need to be more organized in what we do. Molly said she will review it and then send it to the officers next.

- Molly reminded the members that we issued an annual report last summer and an updated strategic plan recently. Contact Megan if you need another copy. Pat H asked if we can set up an access page on the city website for our documents. Megan said no, the city won’t allow any non-city email addresses on their SharePoint site.

Action: Molly will review the SWOT report and then send it to the officers for review. It will then go to the full CoA for review.

Election Sticker – Megan DuBois

- Megan said this contest was announced on the city’s Facebook page this week. Help will be needed to promote the contest. The deadline for submissions will be May 15; public voting will be open from July 4 through August 1.

Diversity Committee – Clayton Austin

- Clayton distributed a handout of VCA’s “Statement on Cultural Equity,” and his document describing a Diversity Working Group within the CoA, and then sent the Diversity Working Group document electronically after the meeting.

Action: Clayton will send an email to all members inviting participation on the Diversity Working Group.

Virginia Arts Conference/Advocacy Day – January 29/30

- Clayton and Pat G attended the conference and split up the programs so they could cover more of the conference. They said it was a very helpful conference.

Fourth of July Judging – Molly Grimsley

- Molly asked the group if we should judge floats and award a “Most Creative Float” again. The consensus was “yes.”

Dumbarton Oaks Field Trip – Sharon Chang

- Sharon asked the members to let her know their available dates during May by the end of today’s meeting.

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.

OTH Performing Committee – Megan DuBois

- Megan said this was suggested by Pat H as part of her report. Members should tell Molly if they are interested in participating.

Action: Members should tell Molly if they are interested in participating on an OTH Performing Committee.

New Business

Americans for the Arts Conference – Megan DuBois

- Megan distributed a handout about the conference which will be held June 26-28, 2020, at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park.

Partner Updates

PRAB (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board) – Pat Gallagher

- Pat G said Molly covered the last meeting. PRAB said they were told their budget would be cut so they were asked to provide their recommendations for the cuts.

Art League – Carol Caputo

- Carol announced the current and future events. She said there have been two paintings vandalized at OTH (stabblings); that may impact the willingness of artists to display their work there.

CFBA (City of Fairfax Band Association) – Ruth Bandler

- Ruth and Jeff discussed upcoming performances, including an invitation for CFB from the U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican to perform at the U.S. Ambassador’s residence and embassy during this year’s July 4 celebration.

GMU – Mary Lechter

- Mary discussed upcoming events and brought copies of the GMU Center for the Arts spring calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.