



Meeting: April 19, 2022

Members Present:

Dan Smith – Chair
Patricia Gallagher – Vice Chair
Clayton Austin – Treasurer
Ruth Bandler – Secretary
Sharon Chang
Michele Greet
Melissa Grow
Brian Howell
Steve Latourette
Susan Morris
Yolanda Ortiz
Padma Surapureddi
Debra Wright - Virtual

Members Absent, Excused:

Lisa Casazza

Members Absent, Unexcused:

Jessica Russo Revand

Staff:

Megan DuBois – Cultural Arts Manager

Guests:

None

Visitors:

None

Dan Smith called the Commission on the Arts (CoA) Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes for March 2022 – Ruth Bandler, Secretary *(included in the read-ahead packet)*

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

Treasurer's Report – Clayton Austin, Treasurer *(included in the read-ahead packet)*

- Clayton summarized the budget status. Clayton said we are on track to come in under budget due to several events being cancelled because of COVID concerns.

- Steve asked if we should transfer funds to the Joan Cross CD since we remove \$400 each year for the award. Clayton said the original funding was from the Cross family, so we need to check the donor letter to see what the original intention was, i.e., was this to continue past the depletion of the Cross family's donated funds. Clayton said he will research this.

Action: Clayton will research the donor letter for the Joan Cross scholarship donation to see if the intent was for the annual award to continue past the depletion of the Cross family's donated funds. If so, then the CoA will have to discuss adding funds to the CD.

Cultural Arts Manager's Report – Megan DuBois, Cultural Arts Manager *(included in the read-ahead packet)*

- Megan discussed the calendar and urged people to attend Spotlight events.
- Megan discussed the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) survey which will be starting May 1. She encouraged anyone interested in helping with the surveys to contact her.

Action: Commissioners interested in volunteering with the AEP6 surveys should contact Megan.

Old Business -

- **Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center – Dan Smith, Chair**
 - o Dan urged people to keep an eye out for opportunities to restate our views/requests to the city staff.
- **Joan Cross Award**
 - o Dan said now that school has resumed after spring break, the Fairfax H.S. Band Director is working on selecting a winner for this award.
- **Committee Meeting Locations**
 - o Dan reminded everyone that guidance for committee meetings has changed. All such meetings are now to be held in person. Megan asked everyone to check her calendar (part of the read-ahead packet). Italicized items are those whose chair hasn't yet contacted Megan to schedule a room for the meeting.
 - o **Action: Committee chairs should make sure to contact Megan to schedule rooms for their upcoming committee meetings.**

Upcoming Elections – Dan Smith, Chair

- Dan reminded everyone that officers serve one-year terms which end in June. We will have a call for nominations at the May meeting and vote on the slate at the June meeting.

Committee Reports – Dan Smith, Chair

- **Arts Awards – Susan Morris**
 - o Megan said the awards ceremony and reception will be held April 29 at the Sherwood Center, after the scheduled BL-OTHPs concert. Megan reminded Susan that she needs to talk with Jessica to set the menu for the reception.
 - o **Action: Jessica needs to talk with Megan about the menu for the April 29 Awards Ceremony Reception.**
- **ArtScreen – Steve Latourette** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
 - o Steve said last week's event went well but the attendance was lower than for previous events due to the scheduling on both Good Friday and the start of Passover.
 - o Steve asked for suggestions for next year's movies and encouraged anyone interested in joining the ArtScreen committee to attend the next meeting, June 24, 7pm, Green Acres.
 - o **Action: Check the calendar before scheduling events such as ArtScreen and BL-OTHPs. Avoid conflicting with dates such as Good Friday and the start of Passover.**
 - o **Action: Commissioners should send suggestions for next year's ArtScreen movies to Steve. Anyone interested in joining the ArtScreen Committee should attend the next meeting, June 24, 7pm, Green Acres.**
- **City of Fairfax Band Association (CFBA) – Ruth Bandler** *(included in the read-ahead packet)*
 - o Ruth summarized the CFBA report.
 - o Steve mentioned upcoming dates for his trombone quartet and the Fairfax Swing Band.
- **Diversity – Clayton Austin**
 - o Clayton said his attention to this committee was somewhat waylaid due to COVID concerns. He wants to step away from the position. He said we either need a new lead or maybe centralize diversity activities by having all the other committees embrace this goal on their own. Steve said we've made recent strides in both ArtScreen and Public Art. Debra said we should keep it as a committee and offered to co-chair it with Clayton. Megan said we need to keep this as a committee to make sure this area keeps our attention.

- Michele suggested holding events with a Bolivian theme since there is a huge Bolivian community in the area. She also heard a great mariachi band and will send the contact information to Megan for BL-OTHPS. Padma suggested that we hold events with a visual art presentation.
- **Grants – Pat Gallagher** (*included in the read-ahead packet*)
 - Pat summarized the report and the recent committee meetings and said that some minor changes will be made to the grants guidelines to clarify a few issues that were raised last year.
- **Language Arts 123 Committee – Sharon Chang**
 - Sharon said the competition deadline was March 31. She said we only received 4 submissions this year, all in the adult category, but the quality was high. This year's competition focus was on diversity. The contestants' submissions were very responsive. She said that a new participation category was added this year and it added some confusion: those who work in the city. Awards will be distributed at the April 29 Awards Ceremony.
 - Sharon said Quote-a-Palooza launched, and 10 local businesses are participating. Megan suggested that someone document the art received by the participating businesses. Steve suggested we have someone visit each business to photograph the submissions.
- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) – Pat Gallagher** (*included in the read-ahead packet*)
 - Pat discussed the report, and in particular, the search for a new director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Sara Greer, City H.R. Director, expressed interest in talking with the CoA for input and invited Dan to meet with her, which he did. He has been assured that there will be CoA representation in the search process.
 - Pat said the Willard-Sherwood project was stated to still be in the concept stage.
- **Performance and Events – Melissa Grow**
 - Melissa said the next committee meeting will be May 9, 7pm, in person, place TBA.
 - The next BL-OTHPS event is April 29 at the Sherwood Center, in combination with the Awards Ceremony and Reception.
 - The last BL-OTHPS for the season is June 3 and an usher is needed.
 - Dan suggested adding Lady Myrrh to the list of suggested performers for next year, since she was well-received handling the movie introduction at last week's ArtScreen event.
 - **Action: An usher is needed for the June 3 BL-OTHPS event at the Sherwood Center. Please contact Melissa if you are available to volunteer.**
 - **Action: Melissa will resend the committee's recommendations for next year's performers to Megan since she said she did not receive it.**
- **Public Art – Debra Wright** (*included in the read-ahead packet*)
 - Debra said the last committee meeting was held outside at Veterans Amphitheater. The committee members helped Megan fabricate chalkboards for the Neighborhood Art Celebration.

Fairfax Art League (FAL) New Location – Padma Surapureddi

- Padma announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 20, 4pm, to celebrate the opening of FAL's new location. She will email the details to the members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.