

Williamsburg Area Arts Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, July 1, 2015

9:00 a.m.

City of Williamsburg Municipal Building, Second Floor Conference Room

Call to order: Jennings

Roll Call: Lilly, Jennings, Branch-Smith, Brown (by phone), Caviness, Myers, Rublein, and Wolfe. Brown was available by phone (technically absent) due to scheduling conflict.

Old Business

- Adoption of May 12, 2015 Minutes: Rublein, Wolfe

New Business

- Lilly asked about WAAC's attendance rules. Commissioners need to be physically present to be counted, even though they may participate by phone. Rich is looking into WAAC's policy on absences.
- Adoption of March 23rd, 2015 Minutes: Rublein, Wolfe
- Arts Moment: Branch Smith
 - Susan told the story of Danville, VT, a tiny town that hadn't changed much in 100 years, but in 1999 found itself requiring significant highway reconstruction. Like many small towns, Danville prized its history and the value of civil discourse but knew that simply holding town meetings would not engage its residents. The city named two artists, one a landscape designer and the other a sculptor, to help guide the town through this chapter. The two artists interviewed residents, held town hall meetings, and circulated questionnaires to gather the input of as many citizens as possible. The artists worked with civil engineers to devise the most culturally pleasing highway project possible using context-sensitive design. Carefully planning details as small as lighting, signage, and vegetation, and as large as design of the highway itself. In so doing, the artists bridged a communications gap between town and state and helped create a final city project in 2014 that engaged interested residents and gained their buy-in, but more important than that the effort strengthened the community. Read more at
 - <http://www.vermontartscouncil.org/about-us/past-projects>,
 - http://contextsensitivesolutions.org/content/case_studies/danvilleproject/

- <http://www.pps.org/reference/artsprojects/>
- Lilly asked about attendance (given that one member was considered technically absent). Absences over the year are reported in December.
- Proposed changes to the Grant Application and Cover Letter - Patricia Rublein and Tim Caviness presented their changes. Both items approved with pending changes to be reviewed at next meeting. Motion: Wolfe, Smith
- Application initial review timeframe and reviewers
 - o Two board members will review each application to check off that required forms and signatures are complete. Organizations will have 72 hours to provide missing items. Appointed were Caviness and Leek. Approved: Jennings, Smith
- 2015-16 WAAC goals discussion
 - o Should WAAC be briefed on information regarding city arts projects that aren't directly related to us (but which WAAC frequently fields questions for)? Several commissioners related that they're regularly asked questions about art events about town, but don't know the answers and where to send people for more information.
 - WAAC will invite local arts people to our semi-monthly meetings to let us know what's coming down the pike.
 - This conversation (i.e., WAAC's role in the community) will be ongoing.
- Grantee compliance status – groups that haven't supplied year-end reports will be called by their liaisons.
- Commissioner visits to grantee performances
 - o We discussed letting WAAC grantees know that we're interested in attending dress rehearsals and other non-public events. This is an effort to accommodate both commissioners, who need to see performances, and grantees who don't have "extra" seats available during performances. To date, WAAC liaisons have informed their organizations that WAAC is interested in complimentary tickets for WAAC liaisons, but only when such tickets don't displace paying customers. Hence, when tickets are provided, they're often for opening nights when attendance is typically limited.
 - o Lilly will send WAAC commissioners language used by previous board member Terry Buntrock.
- Review of grantee/liaison assignments:
 - o Williamsburg Players - Branch Smith (temporary until new York County commissioner is appointed)
 - o Magic of Harmony - Rublein (temporary)

- o Art at the River - Lilly (temporary)
- o Celebrate Yorktown (Jennings, temporary)
- o Tidewater Guitar - Rublein (permanent)
- o Accordion Renaissance - Rublein (permanent)
- o ARC - Branch Smith (permanent)
- o Theatre IV - Leek (permanent)
- o Opera in Williamsburg - Brown (permanent)
- Future meeting dates (now scheduled in 6-month arcs)
 - o Monday, September 28th at 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
 - Branch Smith will have photographer come at 4:15 for annual photo
 - o Wednesday, November 4 at 9 am - 11 am
 - o Wednesday, December 9th at 9 am - 9:30 am (notebook pickup day)
 - o Friday, January 8th, 9 am - 3 pm
 - This last date was determined via email after the meeting

Upcoming agenda items:

- Budget – will WACC be assigned additional funds as the mayor suggested at its April work session?
- WAAC will explore expansion of WAAC presence within the community (in compliance with By-laws)

Adjourn at 11:10: Rublein, Leek.