

# **Williamsburg Area Arts Commission**

## **MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 05, 2015**

**9:03 a.m.**

**City of Williamsburg Municipal Building, Second Floor Conference Room**

Call to order: Jennings

Roll call: Jennings, Branch Smith, Wolfe, Leek, Caviness, Rublein, Lilly, Nurnberger. Brown arrived about 15 minutes later, as planned.

Caviness delivered the Arts Moment. He spoke about the importance of the commission to the arts community. He said that we support seven large organizations and about 25 small ones, and that we have a great impact on our small community arts organizations through granting.

Minutes from September 2015's meeting were accepted with the change of Thomas Nelson University to Thomas Nelson Community College. (Rublein, Nurnberger)

Shelley Weisberg, our guest for the morning, spoke about the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Created in 1968 by The Virginia Assembly, the VCA is composed of 13 commissioners representing areas statewide. Ms. Weisberg explained that the VCA develops policies and initiatives as well as granting.

Two new initiatives:

1. Creative aging — using arts to be vital as we age. Instead of K-12, K-99 years.
2. Creative arts therapy is being used to heal.

Other VCA initiatives and learning points:

1. Shakespeare Initiative. Any group that does anything with Shakespeare has a common resource.
2. Poetry Out Loud. 10,000 high school students — emphasis is on public speaking, creative thinking, presentation. Regional, state, and national levels.
3. Art Works. AW is a conference for everyone, welcoming arts organizations, leaders, and advocates. Next Art Works is Wednesday, January 27th. Strategic planning and the Arts

have a ripple effect ... the conference addresses how we can best integrate arts throughout our communities.

4. Hampton Roads is 3rd largest grant-receiving area (after northern Virginia and Richmond/Charlottesville).
5. Two grant workshops coming up in January. January 8th at VMF and in Portsmouth January 12. Two-hour grant workshops. Free of charge.

Following Ms. Weisberg's presentation, we discussed how we could help our constituents in ways other than granting. We explored ideas, at Wolfe's suggestion, for how we can become more assertive in this area. Jennings tasked Wolfe with developing a message that lists other grant and workshop opportunities and steps toward those (including acquiring Duns numbers).

In addition, Jennings believes WAAC should attend, with an eye to education, other arts commissions and councils.

Rich Saunders said he would create a .pdf of Ms. Weisberg's grant opportunities and create a link to it on the WAAC web site.

## **Old Business**

1. Wording of a notice that will go out with our funding letter re: how to acknowledge the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission. Acknowledgement wording was developed by Rublein, then Branch Smith. (Wolfe, Leek with Rublein opposing.)

Organizations receiving Williamsburg Area Arts Commission grants must acknowledge the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission in all press releases, program guides, posters, web sites, social media pages, and other promotional or media material related to a funded event(s). If a funded event is introduced by a live person or voice, the presenter should also acknowledge the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.

Suggested wording for an acknowledgement of the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission:

[Name of your organization] thanks the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission for its [ongoing, continued] support [grant, funding, gift, sponsorship] of [name of event, this event, performance, season, workshop, etc.].

The Williamsburg Area Arts Commission logo may be used at your discretion. For more information, please contact:

**Mr. Richard Saunders**

**Office of Economic Development  
The City of Williamsburg  
401 Lafayette Street  
Williamsburg VA 23185**

**New Business**

1. Ms. Weisberg had earlier mentioned that Williamsburg's Chamber of Commerce is hosting the VCA on Wednesday December 9th. On motion, we decided to formally welcome the VCA as a group (Nurnberger, Wolfe). Motion asking chamber to involve us that that we participate and be involved with the Chamber in a supportive role. Motion carried unanimously.
2. We extended condolences to Karlene Jennings regarding the recent loss of her father.
3. Grantee questions.
  1. Flute Frenzy. Flute Frenzy had originally requested funding for sending four young musicians to master workshop in Washington DC. Only two young people required funding. Flute Frenzy wanted approval to assign unused part of funds for upcoming master classes elsewhere later this year. Approved (Caviness, Brown). Branch Smith abstained.
  2. AOFTA. AOFTA had to cancel its annual two-day event due to rain. Most of their budget (\$7950 from WAAC) had been committed already. AOFTA asked to return just under \$2,000. At first, a vote that AOFT A keep all money (Lily, Rublein, with Caviness abstaining). Motion failed. A new motion to accept AOFTA's original proposal to us (Wolfe, Nurnberger, with Rublein abstaining). Motion carried.
  3. In other business, Rublein suggested that the arts commissioners get in touch with elected representatives as individuals to mention who we are and why arts funding is important.
4. Commissioners reviewed recent arts and liaison experiences.
  1. Williamsburg Opera. Big success.
  2. Williamsburg Players — opening night of Amadeus made no mention of WAAC although did mention funder Dr. Hecker.
  3. The Arc — Pam McGregor, new (and returning) executive director.
5. In other business
  1. On December 1 and up until our next meeting December 9th, Leek and Caviness are reviewing applications. If information is missing, arts organization will have 24 hours to

make good. Our next meeting is December 9th at 9 am at the Municipal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

**10:50 a.m.**

Motion to adjourn. (Wolfe, Leek).

Note: WAAC photograph was taken at 11 am by Helen's Place Photography.