

Williamsburg Area Arts Commission

MINUTES

Monday, March 21st, 2016

3:30 pm

City of Williamsburg Stryker Building, Council Room

WAAC Chair Jennings made a presentation to the Williamsburg City Council. In it, she requested additional funding. Her remarks are as follows.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present our budget & thank you for your support: past, present, and future, in the Greater Williamsburg Area & Historic Triangle. First, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce the members of the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission—representing the City of Williamsburg: our vice chair, Bob Leek, our recording secretary, Susan Branch Smith, and members at large, Sally Wolfe & Pat Rublein.

Representing York County & unfortunately unable to attend today, Charles Nurnberger. Representing James City County, Calendar Secretary, Greg Lilly, members at large, Ingrid Brown & Tim Caviness. I am Karlene Jennings, Chair for 2015-2016. Personally, I am not an artist—simply a person who appreciates what art & culture bring & do to enrich our community & to the citizens & visitors who participate, watch, listen, and perform.

The City of Williamsburg & The Historic Triangle has a long history of being the center of culture & artistic life in our Commonwealth as the Chamber & Tourism Alliance has already outlined will seek to continue to be so. As WAAC, we seek to engage & help the community & its arts groups—performance, musical, & visual. This year, we had nearly 1/3 of a million dollars in requests from 37 different groups.

We respectfully request \$75,000 from the City of Williamsburg to meet these cultural needs of our growing & vibrant community.

Twenty-five years ago, when I was a high school sophomore in 1991, the average cost of a movie was \$4.25, it is more than double that now.

Likewise, the costs for our groups to produce concerts, visual arts, and other forms of artistic expression have also grown exponentially. As you are aware, during the past 25 years, the Historic Triangle has grown significantly; since 1991, WAAC's budget has not.

As a professional fundraiser, I know that if you never ask, the answer is always “no,”—so on behalf of the more than 35 arts groups—their 100s of performances, shows, and

programs & all of the residents & visitors of the City of Williamsburg & the Historic Triangle that they serve, I ask that you fully fund the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission's increased budget request of \$75,000. After all, one cannot spell Historic Triangle without A-R-T-S. Thank you.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have and again appreciate all you do to embrace what art brings to our wonderful community.

Thank you!

4:40 p.m.

City of Williamsburg Stryker Building, First Floor Conference Room

Call to order: Jennings.

Roll call: Jennings, Branch Smith, Leek, Caviness, Rublein, Lilly, Wolfe, Brown.

Arts Moment. Rublein's daughter recently began working for Pixar. Rublein described her visit there in mid-March, describing Pixar's large campus and her daughter's work there.

Review of Minutes

No changes to December minutes. Move to adopt. (Rublein, Brown) Motion carried unanimously.

No change to January 8th minutes. Move to adopt. (Wolfe, Caviness) Motion carried unanimously.

One change to January 15th minutes: strike who voted to show that WAAC voted to accept new budget recommendations. Move to adopt with changes. (Branch Smith, Wolfe) Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Jennings met with city manager, city attorney, and Leek to discuss the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) insofar as it affects WAAC meetings. The city attorney will speak with us (possibly at our July meeting) about any changes WAAC needs to make.

New Business

Branch Smith reported on progress she and Wolfe have made in planning for the fall grant writing workshop. WAAC agreed to hold the meeting in the Council Room, where we can better control the sound and possibly record the event to produce a webinar.

Rublein reminded WAAC to send suggestions and comments to her for changes to the WAAC grant proposal. Rublein will present changes to the group at a later date.

Rublein inquired about the new foundation that Lilly is chairing. Lilly indicated that it was not on the agenda and agreed to address the foundation in the future.

WAAC agreed to contact the Chamber of Commerce to pursue the integration of our two arts calendars.

6:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn. (Wolfe, Lilly). Motion carried unanimously.