

Williamsburg Area Arts Commission

MINUTES

Monday, May 23rd, 2016

City of Williamsburg Municipal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

2:03 pm

I. Call to order

Roll call

Jennings, Branch Smith, Leek, Caviness, Rublein, Lilly, Wolfe, Brown, Nurnberger.

Also present:

- Will Ferris, Rich Saunders' intern
- Jennifer Raines & Steve Rose from CultureFix
- Terry Buntrock, Triangle Arts & Culture League

Review of March 21st minutes

- Greg Lilly's name is misspelled once.
- Replace the last two full sentences on page 3 with "We agreed to discuss at a future meeting."

Branch Smith agreed to fix and resend to Rich Saunders for distribution.

Motion to approve minutes with corrections. (Smith, Lilly) Motion passed unanimously.

II. Visitor Presentations

Steve Rose spoke about CultureFix, a new organization that is devoted to using empty and derelict spaces for arts and entertainment. Rose, who spoke about his involvement in the event business for the past 20 years, spoke to events he has helped create, such as Art & Soul and Blues Fest. These events, Rose said, contribute to Williamsburg's quality of life.

Rose said that he and Jennifer Raines, owner of Quirks of Art, said they had decided to form a new nonprofit when they realized that doing so would help fundraising as well as the sponsoring of events that involve adult beverages.

Currently, said Rose, CultureFix is working on the next Blues Fest as well as an event called ArtCanTecture, in which teams make sculptures using donated food.

Terry Buntrock, executive director of TACL (Triangle Arts & Culture League), formed her new nonprofit organization to raise money for the arts from outside of the Triangle area, so as not to compete for local money.

Some current TACL projects include:

- Run for the Arts
- Art & Garden
- Continued funding of the arts district’s public outdoor art (contributing \$15K to this year’s installation)
- Events that involve the former Tioga property on the corner of Richmond Road and Matoaka Court.
- Other events as appropriate with area nonprofits

III. City Attorney Presentation

Chris Shelton, Williamsburg City Attorney, spoke to the commissioners about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as it pertains to WAAC. In particular, she cautioned against communication that might be construed as a vote when that communication occurs outside of regular WAAC meetings. She also mentioned that, when discussing a topic, it’s best to send information to Rich Saunders for dissemination. That way, “internal” emails cannot be construed as public.

Afterwards, the commissioners decided that it may be a good idea to hear from the City Attorney again, perhaps on a regular basis.

It’s also a good idea, all agreed, to have the City Attorney review our revised application and any other public materials. She needs about two weeks’ time to review what we send her.

Chris Shelton also spoke about COIA — the Conflict of Interests Act. WAAC’s primary concern has been whether to recuse commissioners who are currently involved as board members of arts organizations that WAAC is considering for funding.

The upshot of the conversation is that it is up to the individual to recuse him- or herself from discussions and voting regarding funding.

Chris Shelton distributed a document with an abbreviated explanation of the Freedom of Information Act.

IV. Break (3:05-3:15 pm)

V. Old Business

1. Rich Saunders has sent letters to arts organizations that received grants from WAAC.
2. Susan Branch Smith updated the group about her and Pat Rublein's work on a revised grant application. Branch Smith will make changes and distribute via Rich Saunders ahead of the July WAAC meeting.

VI. New Business

1. Ingrid Brown announced that the slate for 2016/2017 WAAC board members is as follows:
 - Sally Wolfe, Chair
 - Susan Branch Smith, Vice Chair
 - Greg Lilly, Calendar Secretary
 - Pat Rublein, Recording Secretary

A motion to accept the slate (Jennings, Branch Smith) passed unanimously.

2. Karlene Jennings reviewed plans for the June joint luncheon and associated activities. The plan is to meet in the Stryker Center, where lunch will be delivered. Guests will include Mayor Clyde Haulman, who is retiring at the end of June, as well as the architects of the Stryker Building.
3. Jennings also delivered her chair report.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.