

**CULTURAL COUNCIL of VOLUSIA COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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July 31, 2009

MEMBERS:

Katherine Smith-Williams, Chair
Wendell Jarrard, Vice Chair
Bob Dahlen
Bill Dreggors
Gary Libby
Tim Ludwig
Donna Sue Sanders
Jim Ward
Sandra Wilson

MEETING PLACE:

Pioneer Settlement for the Creative Arts
1776 Lightfoot Lane
Barberville, FL.

STAFF: Mike Fincher

GUESTS: Carol Anderson, Farrokh Assad, Patti Pardee, Ross Lishen

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Jarrard called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Roll was called. Members Dahlen, Smith-Williams and Sanders were not present. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – From the regular meeting of May 8, 2009

MOTION by Member Libby, 2nd by Member Wilson, *“To approve the minutes of the May 8, 2009 regular meeting as presented.”* **Motion passed unanimously.**

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historic Courthouse Plaza Chess Park – Member Ludwig reported that the artist and artist representative are currently in the process of reviewing the contract and making some modifications to it based on the specific scope of work. Once revised, the contract will be reviewed by County legal staff and signed by the County manager and a purchase order can be issued to get the work started.

Deltona Regional Library Expansion/ Lyonia Environmental Center – Member Jarrard reported that the committee reviewed submissions from 25 artists and, over a series of three meetings, narrowed the field down to three Florida artists whose work will be recommended to the County Council for approval. The work consists of fabrication of a service center desk for the Children’s section, a small environmental mural in the entrance lobby and original art affixed to book stack end panels in the general circulation and children’s areas of the library. The total budget for the project is \$54,000.

Mr. Libby asked that we address the issue of standard signage for all Art in Public Places projects as an agenda item for our next meeting. Staff will make sure this is added to the agenda for discussion and action

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Community Cultural Grant – Mr. Fincher reported that the County Council had approved the allocations as determined from scores provided at the Grant Review on May 5, 2009. The budget amount used as the basis for allocations was the same amount as funded last year, \$704,715. This tentative approval is conditioned on the assumption that the rollback millage is approved at the final budget hearings in September. If the County Council approves a lower millage rate, then these allocations will have to be reduced accordingly.

Member Ward asked if this agenda item was pulled for discussion by Council and if so, was the question regarding eligibility of Cinderic Documentaries raised. Mr. Fincher advised that the item was pulled for discussion but that eligibility issues were not raised. All organizations meeting the minimum average score will receive funding. Member Ward would like this to be re-addressed for next year when the annual Community Cultural Grant planning workshop is held in November or December.

Member Ludwig raised an issue regarding an article appearing in the local newspaper regarding a possible partnership between the Daytona Beach International Festival and Daytona State College. His question was, if this goes through, does this affect DBIF's grant eligibility due to the policy prohibiting participation by educational organizations. Mr. Libby suggested that staff meet with DBIF and ask them to provide an explanation in writing describing the proposed relationship and also request a revised budget. This can be reviewed prior to the start of the fiscal year when grant payments are scheduled to begin.

Member Libby spoke about the scoring that was conducted at the Grant Review and expressed a concern that, in his opinion, several panelists did not score the applications with as much objectivity as he felt was deserved. Many times he thought the scores given were too high based upon the content of the applications or the explanations provided during the review. He would like to see the process changed to a prioritized ranking system.

Member Jarrard would also like to see more discipline interjected in the applicant presentation rules at the grant review meeting. He would like to see the three minute update rule enforced in all cases. He feels that some organizations are misusing the process to make a pitch rather than just provide updated information.

Member Jarrard asked staff to get with the Chair and set up a date for a workshop for the Council to consider all these issues prior to launching the public workshops in January.

Mr. Fincher suggested that each member e-mail him with the items that they would like to see discussed and that staff will then prepare a proposed agenda and circulate for comment prior to conducting the workshop.

Ocean Center ECHO Gallery Policy – Mr. Fincher reported that staff had prepared a very rough draft of a policy that had been reviewed by the current Ocean Center staff and was with the County Manager’s office for additional review. The County Manger would like to wait until the new Ocean Center Director is on board and has a chance to settle in before moving this forward. Once this is done, staff will proceed with setting up public meetings with all stakeholders in the community to add their input to the process.

Member Libby restated that it is important that the commitments made in the original ECHO grant application for this project be considered when formulating any policy about its use. Mr. Libby asked that each member of the council be furnished with a copy of the one page summary from the ECHO grant application. Staff will provide this at the next meeting.

Member Libby again addressed the fact that this facility was to be more than just a community gallery space. There are specific technological functions that are to be provided as a part of this project and these will need to be addressed as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Report by Member Libby on the Impact of Expanding Grant Funding Opportunities to Area Colleges and University- Member Libby presented a report he prepared after meeting with a representative of the educational consortium recently organized by the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, UCF, DSC and others. The conclusion is that a substantial increase in per capita funding would be required if the grant eligibility is expanded.

Vice Chair Jarrard asked if this report could be studied by the members and its information taken in consideration at the proposed grant workshop. Member Libby agreed to this.

Comments by Member Ludwig – Member Ludwig wanted to remind all the members of how important their role is in helping promote art and culture within the County and advised the members to not become discouraged when there seems to be strong differences of opinion on the Council.

Review of Conflict of Interest Policy and Gift Rules Presentation – Member Libby asked if all members understood and were comfortable with the position outlined by Assistant County Attorney Bruce Page at the last meeting in this regard. The consensus was that the understanding is that gifts and invitations of insignificant monetary value can be accepted so long as there is no effort on the part of the gifting organization to solicit favors in exchange.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/VCCA REPORT

Dr. Carol Anderson-McLean, Managing Director of the Daytona Beach Symphony Society and Vice President of the Volusia County Cultural Alliance presented the VCCA report.

- Members attended the special ECHO meeting and County Council meeting and spoke in support of continuing to fund Cultural and Heritage based capital projects and encouraged their members to lobby for this position with their County Council members.

- The Alliance would like to thank the CCVC for their leadership and efforts to retain per capita funding in the County Comprehensive Plan.
- The Alliance has launched their first newsletter in an e-mail format and the CCVC members should receive their copies very.
- In response to a request from the County Council, the Alliance is working on creating a master calendar of cultural events.
- The Alliance is running a 30 second ad on WDSC Public Television promoting the Alliance and shows Arts in Action in Volusia County.
- The annual Tippen Davidson Awards Dinner will be held September 24 at the Atlantic Center for the Arts and this year's honorees are Fran & Van Massey.
- Additionally, the Alliance is in the process of creating a permanent award to be displayed in a County facility.
- The Alliance would like to thank the CCVC for their hard work and diligence with the Community Cultural Grant Review.

Member Libby suggested that the Alliance's opinions about possible changes to the grant should be sought. Member Jarrard suggested that the Alliance have their President or other representative participate in the workshop.

On behalf of the Daytona Beach Symphony Society, Dr. Anderson- McLean reported about a new upcoming fundraiser sponsored by DBSS called "Superstars of Volusia. It is talent competition in the performing arts for Volusia County school children.

Patti Pardee of the Museum of Arts and Sciences provided a brief report on the status of the flood damage repair efforts at the museum.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Vice Chair Jarrard adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted- Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator and Recording Secretary.