

FROM: Orange County Arts Commission
SUBJECT: Monthly Meeting
DATE: October 13, 2014
LOCATION: OWASA Community Room, Carrboro

MEMBERS PRESENT: Katherine Dickson, Brian Finch, Doris Friend, Geoffrey Hathaway, Tim Hoke, Bronwyn Merritt, Joy Salyers, Devra Thomas, Scott Van Manen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lindsey Alexander, Tinka Jordy, Emily Lees, Deb Hepp, Ashley Nissler, Kathleen Ponder

STAFF PRESENT: Martha Shannon

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Topic A

Discussion Point: Review of September 2014 Minutes

Decision/Vote(s): Brief discussion of minutes.

Action Item: Minutes approved unanimously.

Topic B

Discussion Point: Director's Report

Decision/Vote(s):

Staff is working on getting Carol Hewitt to be our guest presenter for the November 21, 2014 Artists' Salon to talk about the business/marketing side of the arts. Martha Shannon will be out of the office beginning November 6th for at least 2 weeks for medical reasons. Martha will not be at the Arts Commission's November 10th meeting at the Orange County Public Library (137 W. Margaret Lane) in Hillsborough. November 20th is the Fall 2014 arts grant deadline. The 2015 Piedmont Laureate Selection Committee will meet at 3 pm on Monday, November 3rd at the Durham Arts Council.

Action Item: None.

Topic C

Discussion Point: Nominating Committee

Decision/Vote(s): Nominating Committee member Brian Finch presented their slate of new officers (Devra Thomas - Chair, Lindsey Alexander – Vice Chair, Katherine Dickson – Secretary).

Action Item: New slate of officers approved unanimously.

Topic D

Discussion Point: CHOCVB Liaison, Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Decision/Vote(s): Devra Thomas reported for Deb Hepp on the most recent Visitors Bureau board meeting. The Visitors Bureau has a new sales director. They are no longer going to be paying rent to the county on the building. The results of their market research study showed that Orange County is a destination for mid-week business and summer leisure travelers. Their plan is to continue digital advertising, with more diversity in ads. County Manager Bonnie Hammersley was in attendance. Town of Carrboro has launched a new website. Their next breakfast meeting will be on Wednesday, October 15th

at the Carolina Inn. The Marketing Committee reported that Festifall went well. The new brochure is about the grants program, and two posters at the Festifall booth showed grant recipients in action. Many people stopped, signed up for the OCAC mailing list.

Action Item: None

Topic E

Discussion Point: Old Business/New Business/Post-Board Mini-Retreat

Decision/Vote(s): Conversations with elected officials about what the OCAC does, what we'd like to do to serve more, what we may need to do that more effectively – such as an alternative funding model - have begun. After the mid-term elections, there will be a new County Commissioner (replacing Alice Gordon, who did not run for re-election). Devra Thomas and Doris Friend met with Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier (who has been thinking creatively about a farm/arts connection). Deb Hepp has met with Commissioner Penny Rich. We should continue to make them aware of the entire scope of what we do. OCAC board members should keep track of their meetings with Commissioners. We will schedule a retreat for the spring now that we have a full board. The first Bluegrass Festival at Moorefields was a success. The Jazz Festival the following weekend also went well. Geoffrey Hathaway will be out until January for medical reasons. Orange County resident Jaki Shelton Green was inducted into the 2014 North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame on October 12, 2014. She was the very first Piedmont Laureate (in 2009). The Public Art and Advocacy discussion at FRANK gallery on October 23rd would be helpful for OCAC board members to attend. The ArtsCenter has an Interim Executive Director, Noel James.

Action Item: None

Topic F

Discussion Point: Calendar

Decision/Vote(s): Our next board meeting will be on Monday, November 10th from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Orange County Public Library (137 W. Margaret Lane) in Hillsborough.

Action Item: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM