

Prince William County Arts Council Board of Directors
Minutes of the May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting
James J. McCoart Administration Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Prince William County Arts Council (PWCAC) Board of Directors (Board) was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at the James J. McCoart Administration Building. Chair Alice Mergler called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.

Roll Call

The Chair announced the resignation of Secretary Kelly Haneklau, resulting in a total Board membership of 24. A quorum was present at the meeting, with 14 directors in attendance.

Members of the Board Present

1. Alice Mergler – Board Chair
2. Peter Alten – Treasurer
3. Susan Bardenhagen – Vice Chair for Programming
4. Victor Harper – Vice Chair for Marketing
5. Debora Madsen – Vice Chair for Nominations
6. Wanda Lee Smith – Neabsco Appointee
7. Jordan Exum (Director ARTfactory)
8. Elysabeth Muscat (Virginia National Ballet)
9. Catrina D. Stroman (Potomac Representative)
10. Jackie Thomas (GEM Theater)
11. Kim B Miller (Poet Laureate Emerita)
12. Heather Gorrell (Manassas Ballet Theatre)
13. Dawn Franklin (Gainesville Appointee)
14. Jesus Torres (Woodbridge Appointee)

Members of the Board Absent

1. Sean Peck
2. Diane Bennett
3. Carylee Carrington
4. Ebenezer A. Allotey
5. Brenda Johnson
6. Jina Kang
7. Desirea Moore-Mitchell
8. David Roberts
9. Ronald E. Crigger
10. Kelly Haneklau

Staff, Members and Guests Present: Seth Hendler-Voss, DPRT Director; Herb Williams, DPRT Arts Recreation Specialist; Kevin Costello, Tourism Administrator; Donald Garrett, PRP, Parliamentarian; Theo Scott; Krys Bienia; Diane Roebuck; Lee Vannett Susan Furr; and John Blevins, Assistant Director for Recreation DPRT

Announcements

Members and guests announced upcoming arts programming, including but not limited to:

- Lukman Ahmad Artist Reception on May 20, 2023, at ArtFactory;
- Swan Lake at the Manassas Ballet Theatre, May 19-21, 2023;
- The Occoquan Town Council is conducting a mural contest with an award of \$5,000. The deadline for entry is June 16, 2023;
- Prince William County Band Community Band Festival on June 11, 2023; and
- Kim Miller is hosting a free poetry writing workshop on May 13, 2023, at the Ferlazzo Building.

New Business

Treasurer Peter Alten presented a financial report. There is \$510 available for technical assistance grants. Treasurer Alten moved, *“That we grant \$10,000 in investment and capital items at Open Spaces Gallery.”*

- Question: Where is the \$10,000 coming from? Response: There are unspent funds in the budget from events that did not occur during the fiscal year.
- DPRT Director Hendler-Voss stated that the Board’s grantmaking authority is limited by the Charter.
- The motion was ruled out of order because Article V of the PWCAC Charter only allows for grants to be funded with membership dues. Board Chair Mergler encouraged members to come to next month’s meeting with a specific list of items to be purchased in compliance with the County’s purchasing policy.

Arts Council Liaison Report

- Checks for grants have gone out. Applications for fiscal year 2024 grants closed on May 1 and the grant panel will be meeting on May 22, 2023, at the Birchdale Community Center to rank the applications.
- Stats since April 2022 for the Open Space Arts Gallery: Over 607 artists served, over 18,000 audiences exposed to the facility, 36 exhibits and performance, and \$39,000 worth of art sold.

Committee Reports

Marketing: We are proceeding with doing a float in the Dale City Independence Day Parade.

Nominating: The committee recommends 1) the directors whose terms expire in 2024 remain on the board and 2) Kim B. Miller and Jackie Thomas be on the ballot at the 2023 annual meeting for a term ending in 2025. This will keep the total board at 18 people, in line with both the current Charter and the new proposed Charter.

Minutes Approval

By a vote of 12-0, the minutes of the April 11, 2023, regular meeting of the Board were approved as corrected.

Committee Reports Continued

Programming: Over 200 people attended the annual Kathleen K. Seefeldt Awards & Dessert Reception and the event was within budget by approximately \$125.

On behalf of the Programs Committee, Vice Chair Bardenhagen moved, *“To approve funding for three workshops this year: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Accessibility; and Teambuilding.”*

- Question: Have speakers been identified? Response: The committee needs approval before we can finalize details. These three workshops would be in addition to the workshops featuring free speakers from the County.
- The motion was adopted by a vote of 11 yesses and 2 noes.

Education in the Schools: The initiative is to get into the schools and the committee members are working on establishing relationships with schools. The goal is to provide opportunities outside of the schools’ regular arts curriculum. Ideas include paying for additional showings of high school musicals and field trips.

Treasurer Alten moved, *“To purchase supplies for the arts education in the school initiative.”*

- Discussion: Money is available in the budget due to it being late in the year and the fact that any events and programming would occur during the next school year, which would be the next fiscal year for PWCAC.
- The motion was adopted by a vote of 12 yesses.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Alice Mergler
Board Chair