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REGIONAL ARTS  
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



**Regional Arts Commission  
Ad Hoc Facilities Committee Minutes  
August 26, 2021 @ 1:30 PM via ZOOM**

**Attendees**

Jerry Gennaria, Chair, Eva Frazer, Mont Levy, Andréa Purnell, David Wilson



Staff: Vanessa Cooksey, Rita Dillard, Chloe Smith, Lea Sutherlin

Other: Steve Harowitz, Campfire

1. Call to Order: Gennaria called the meeting to order at 1:32p; thanked everyone for attending; called for approval of the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2. **Approval of the Minutes, July 29, 2021**

Gennaria called for the approval of the July 29, 2021 minutes. Motion made by Levy, seconded by Eva and unanimously approved.

3. **Welcome David Wilson to the Committee**

Gennaria welcomed Wilson to the Committee; noted that information has been sent to bring Wilson up to speed; let him (Gennaria) know if there are gaps and if additional info is needed.

Asked Vanessa and Campfire to present update.



4. **Campfire Update**

Cooksey: Important to engage community before the retreat and Campfire did a great job; now have feedback from hundreds of stakeholders; Harowitz will present data and insights at the retreat; asked Harowitz to present on the process.

Harowitz shared data collection updates; project team along with RAC staff involved in the process; highlighted/shared overarching strategic questions posed to key stakeholders and community members; gave update on tools used including survey, focus groups and interviews; in short span of time almost all data collection has been completed; will share findings for all data sources during the September 8<sup>th</sup> mini-retreat.

Open discussion held regarding survey anonymity; demographic breakdown; robust data; info beyond facilities, and analysis based on the data.

Gennaria thanked Harowitz and noted that everyone is looking forward to the final report.

Frazer noted that she appreciated this process and the importance of recognizing that this building and RAC decisions are an asset of the community, so their input is important on something this major.

Gennaria agreed; will be valuable in guiding the conversation.

Cooksey: Campfire did an amazing job; thanked Gennaria for the recommendation.

5. **Discuss Presentation and Materials for Mini-Retreat**

Gennaria asked Cooksey to present information in preparation for the retreat.

Cooksey: Leslie Peters has been confirmed as facilitator; will discuss important topics; Steve Harowitz/Campfire will present on Sep 8<sup>th</sup>; shared info sent prior to this meeting including the following: recommended pre-read materials, facilities strategic questions, data points – (Campfire results will be presented live on Sep 8<sup>th</sup>); financial analysis highlights, place model options and pros; rent vs. own, community engagement, master facilities plan, and appendix with strategic plan and other key documents. Added that DCM is now on board as management company to help with maintenance.

Open discussion held regarding admin space alternatives, shared space, and costs; and importance of looking at place and proximity.

Cooksey noted that DCM and KEB have been invited to participate in the September retreat.

Additional discussion held on moving forward based on aspirations of the strategic plan goal and importance to look at long term future; and narrowing goals for place; formulating specific options during the September retreat; and timeline for reaching a goal.

Gennaria asked for any other concerns in preparation for the retreat.

Wilson noted that he will not be able to attend retreat and shared his thoughts regarding earlier discussions relating to rent options.

Purnell asked about September retreat attendance.

Cooksey noted that that September retreat will be hybrid; engaged Geniecast for those who prefer the full virtual experience as well as a social distanced/mask in person experience.

Levy noted there is a strong response from attendance in both areas.

6. **Next Steps**

Cooksey: will include info for rental options/space and potential for future growth; will ask DCM to participate; will share Wash U interest in RAC; she and Gennaria will schedule conversation.

Purnell: Regarding Cooksey's vision for adding staff for the future of the organization, Celia had done research looking at capacity; Cooksey might want to look at that data.

Cooksey noted she will share her vision during the retreat.

7. **Adjourn**

Gennaria called for adjournment of the August 26, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Frazer, seconded by Purnell and unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 2:30p.

Submitted by  
L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator