



**Regional Arts Commission  
Governance Committee Minutes  
November 7, 2024 via ZOOM  
8:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

Nickens called the November 7, 2024, meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Committee roll call.

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Rudy Nickens - chair, David Wilson, Roz Johnson – ex officio

**Committee Members Absent**

Heather Corcoran  
Andréa Purnell

**Staff Attendees**

Vanessa Cooksey, Ann Haubrich, Angie Peters, Chloe Smith, Lea Sutherlin

**Approval of August 22, 2024 Minutes**

Nickens called for motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2024, Governance Committee meeting.

**Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Wilson, and unanimously carried to approve the August 22, 2024 Governance Committee minutes. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Nickens, Wilson, Johnson**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

Nickens then reported on the following:

**Commissioner Reappointments/New Appointment Recommendation - Vote**

As a follow-up to this committee's meeting held August 22, Nickens reminded it is the authority of this committee to recommend suggestions for reappointments and new appointments for approval to present at the Annual Board Meeting on November 21, 2024, and that he (Nickens, term ends October 2025) and Walker (term ends January 2025) are seeking reappointment. (Note to minutes – City and County new appointment candidate bios were included in the packet for this meeting).





Nickens reported on the following: (1) candidates, Matthew Coble and Cynthia Prost have both applied to St. Louis County Boards and Commissions; (2) reminded that Commissioner Angela Williams – County, will be leaving St. Louis in December 2024; (3) candidates Gerad Ewing and Ron Gibbs have both applied to St. Louis City Boards and Commissions, that Commissioner Heather Corcoran’s – City, term ends January 2025, and that she will not seek reappointment; (4) that he [Nickens] has reached out to all new appointment candidates to gauge interest; and (5) asked Cooksey to share her knowledge of new appointment candidates.

Discussion held regarding the following: (1) source of recommendations for new appointment candidates (2) strengths and skills each candidate could bring to RAC; and (3) final new appointment candidates for recommendation to the full Commission at its Annual Board Meeting, November 21.

**Nickens called for a motion to approve the following: Cheryl Walker [City reappointment-term ends January 2025], and Gerad Ewing as the candidate for City new appointment/replace Commissioner Corcoran whose term ends January 2025.**

**Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Johnson, and unanimously carried to approve Cheryl Walker [City reappointment], and Gerad Ewing, candidate for City new appointment. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Nickens, Wilson, Johnson**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

**Nickens called for a motion to approve the following: Rudy Nickens [County reappointment-term ends October 2025], and Matthew Coble as the candidate for County new appointment/replace Commissioner Williams [relocating December 2024].**

**Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Johnson, and unanimously carried to approve Rudy Nickens [County reappointment], and Matthew Coble as the candidate for County new appointment. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Nickens, Wilson, Johnson**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain – none**

**Wilson shared, for the record, his belief that Prost has had a positive impact on the arts in St. Louis and while he appreciates that, RAC also needs Board members with experience beyond the arts.**

2025 Slate of Officers Recommendation - Vote

Nickens reminded that the recommendation for the 2025 Slate of Officers was included in the packet for this meeting, and noted the slate as follows:





Jerry Gennaria, Chair  
Constantino Ochoa, Vice Chair  
Sam Fiorello, Secretary  
John Russell, Treasurer

Nickens reported that he has reached out to the recommended officers to gauge interest and all have agreed to serve.

Discussion held regarding: (1) role of vice chair as it relates to prospect of appointment as chair; and (2) statute on chair rotation.

**Nickens called for a motion to approve the 2025 Slate of Officers for recommendation at the 2024 Annual Board Meeting on November 21. Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Wilson, and unanimously carried to approve the 2025 Slate of Officers. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Nickens, Wilson, Johnson**  
**Nay – none**  
**Abstain - none**

New RAC Board Committee – Public Art - Vote

Nickens reminded that a presentation and discussion was held at the August 22 meeting of this committee, regarding the formation of a Public Art Committee. Nickens then called for questions or comments regarding the draft charter for the Public Art Committee, and hearing none, thanked Smith for doing a great job of explaining it during the August meeting.

**Nickens called for a motion to approve the new RAC Board Committee on Public Art effective January 1, 2025, for presentation at the 2024 Full Commission Annual Board Meeting on November 21. Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Johnson, and unanimously carried to approve the new RAC Board Committee on Public Art. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Nickens, Wilson, Johnson**  
**Nay – none**  
**Abstain - none**

Open Discussion

Cooksey thanked Smith and Haubrich on their leadership, with special kudos to Smith for her commitment to public art as it helps RAC to be impactful and strategic.

Smith thanked the Governance Committee for its due diligence in reading the charter materials and for the approval of the Public Art Committee.

Cooksey also thanked Sutherlin for helping to guide the infrastructure for this work.





Cooksey then reported that the response from the St. Louis Mural Project (STLMP) has been amazing. Cooksey also shared photos of her Focus St. Louis Leadership classmate Candace Bingham, who took the challenge to visit all 28 murals in 14 wards. Cooksey further reported that the positive impact of the murals has been phenomenal and extended her thanks for support from members of this committee, at the Board level, which speaks to effective governance and RAC's responsiveness to doing what is right for the region and the sector.

Nickens added appreciation to Sutherlin for her positive response in helping to facilitate a new committee to RAC's Board.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Wilson, and unanimously approved to adjourn the November 7, 2024 Governance Committee meeting at 8:48 a.m.**

**Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Nickens, Wilson, Johnson**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

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

### **Attachments**

- Governance Committee Minutes, August 22, 2024
- Commissioner New Appointment Bios
- 2025 Slate of Officers – Recommendation
- Public Art Committee Charter