



**Regional Arts Commission
Governance Committee Minutes
August 22, 2024 via ZOOM
8:00 a.m.**

Call to Order

Nickens called the August 22, 2024, meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Committee roll call.

Committee Members in Attendance

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

Committee Members Absent

Heather Corcoran

Staff Attendees

Vanessa Cooksey, Angie Peters, Lea Sutherlin

Approval of May 9, 2024 Minutes

Nickens called for the approval of the minutes from the May 9, 2024, Governance Committee meeting.

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Wilson, and unanimously carried to approve the May 9, 2024 Governance Committee minutes. Votes were as follows:

Yea – Nickens, Purnell, Wilson, Johnson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Nickens then shared the following:

Commissioners with Terms Ending in 2025

Nickens shared the following report on Commissioners with terms ending in 2025: (1) St. Louis City – Heather Corcoran, January 16, 2025 – eligible, however asked not to be reappointed; (2) St. Louis City - Cheryl Walker, January 16, 2025, eligible and willing to be reappointed; and (3) St. Louis County - Rudy Nickens, October 1, 2025, eligible and willing to be reappointed.

Discussion - Prospective Candidate(s) to Replace Heather Corcoran

Discussion held as follows regarding prospective candidates to replace Heather Corcoran.





Nickens asked for suggestions or whether there were names for consideration already in the queue.

Cooksey shared that Sutherlin reached out to Boards and Commissions for both the City and the County, and that Walker has completed an application for St. Louis City reappointment, and Shar Smith, Dr. Natalie Calhoun, an anesthesiologist recommended by Tony Chance, and Cindy Prost, former director of A&E, have all applied for appointment by St. Louis County.

Nickens suggested checking on any interest from St. Louis City.

Wilson commented that Cindy Prost knows that arts scene and could bring a lot to the Commission.

Nickens concurred.

Additional discussion held regarding the possibility of an additional meeting of this Committee, if needed, to finalize new and reappointments for recommendation to/approval by the full Board at its annual meeting.

Discussion – Suggested 2025 Slate of Officers (All)

Nickens asked Cooksey to lead the discussion on suggested 2025 Slate of Officers.

Cooksey mentioned that while it is the ultimate decision of this Committee, she and Sutherlin meticulously review the minutes, notes and emails, and thoughtfully evaluate suggestions for the Slate of Officers. She added that the aim in rotating the chair position annually is to ensure that commissioners are adequately prepared to step into the role of chair in the future. Cooksey then highlighted the suggested 2025 Slate of Officers included in the packet for this meeting.

Discussion held as follows: (1) respective roles of treasurer, vice chair, and secretary; (2) current board term expirations; (3) role, work and time commitment as chair; (4) RAC's extraordinary accomplishments under past chairs; and (5) gauging interest of current Secretary [Ochoa] as vice chair in 2025.

Open Discussion

Cooksey and Peters noted the possibility of establishing a Public Art Committee through the Commission. Peters further noted the following: (1) several requests from the City of St. Louis for public art; (2) an important 'next step' for RAC; and (3) would be in addition to current committees.

Wilson recalled a conversation with Chloe Smith, public art management, regarding a spreadsheet of art owned by the City, and the possibility of RAC providing guidance or advice on how to proceed with that art. Wilson added that that this might be a fit with that idea.

Vanessa Cooksey noted the following: (1) Public art plays a vital role, especially highlighted by the St. Louis Mural Project and the successful completion of 28 murals by the RAC; (2) establishing a committee within





the Board, along with the ability to invite community members to participate, to provide the necessary framework to institutionalize and formalize this work, and reflect its significance to RAC; (3) Chloe Smith is working on an official proposal; and (4) bringing to this Committee for insights and willingness – if yes - team will continue to do due diligence and return with a formal proposal and request for a vote.

Nickens, Wilson in favor.

Johnson in favor of getting a further understanding of responsibilities and requirements.

Cooksey noted that the proposal will include that information.

Purnell agreed with Johnson and expressed her eagerness to learn more. She advised caution when considering the inclusion of community members outside the commission to serve on the committee, particularly regarding their decision-making authority and the distinction between long-standing and ad hoc committee membership.

Adjournment

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Purnell, and unanimously approved to adjourn the August 22, 2024 Governance Committee meeting at 8:54 a.m.

Votes were as follows:

Yea – Nickens, Purnell, Wilson, Johnson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

Attachments

- Governance Committee Minutes, May 9, 2024
- Board Member Term Summary
- Suggested 2025 Slate of Officers - Draft

