



6128 DELMAR BLVD
ST. LOUIS MO 63112

(314) 863 5811
(314) 863 6932 FAX
WWW.ART-STL.COM

REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



**Regional Arts Commission
Governance Committee Minutes - DRAFT
April 23, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM**

Attendees



Kellie Trivers, Mont Levy, Cheryl Walker, David Wilson

Staff: Vanessa Cooksey

Other: Lea Sutherlin, Admin Consultant

Call to order: Trivers called meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

HB1365 and HB1366 / Jeff City Hearing Update

Cooksey: She and Kitty Ratcliffe, Explore STL traveled to Jefferson City for the 8:30 a.m. hearing of HB 1365; witnesses were present in support of the bill and Ratcliffe was a witness in opposition of the bill; Cooksey noted she was not able to present any testimony as there was not enough time allotted by the end of the hearing; the presenting legislator Rep. DeGroot submitted the amendment which adds an additional seat and appoints four (4) members from the Governor, four (4) from the City of St. Louis, and four (4) from St. Louis County; Franklin County, Jefferson County and St. Charles County have each requested seats on the Explore STL Board as they believe their residents influence what happens in STL City and STL County (based on events at the dome) but do not have a sales tax that funds Explore STL. Cooksey further noted that as part of her (Ratcliffe's) testimony, it was communicated that if these counties would like to create a hotel sales tax, then they would be welcome to join the Explore STL Board; Ratcliffe also helped distinguish/provide clarity that the dome is not funded by Explore STL.



Levy: Cooksey sent him the livestream link, so he was able to watch the entire hearing; Ratcliffe gave outstanding testimony in the short time she was provided.

Cooksey: HB 1366 still on the table as possible amendment to HB 1365; at conclusion of the hearing she introduced herself to Rep. DeGroot and explained that the board composition is fair; her commitment is to support Ratcliffe as we do not want elements

of HB 1366 tacked onto the new HB 1365; not much time remaining in legislative session; reiterated not sure who is behind the changes or and what they really want.

Bylaw Revisions Review

Trivers: Section 4 – Nominations - not sure about verbiage “expectation” that the vice chair will become chair; what if the sitting vice chair is not the right person; possibly re-word to “we’d like”; and there is also the question of term limits or if they resign.

Walker: Last meeting discussion was held about being more intentional about the vice chair for continuity and would anticipate they would be made chair; last clause was explanatory so that someone beyond the commission can understand.

Wilson: Language accommodates those reasonable concerns; agrees with Walker that the language helps enshrine the concept for the future; it helps frame expectations for right now.

Levy: Not bound by it; but agrees it provides the right terminology to address the concerns being expressed here.

Cooksey: As we figure out how to implement changing of chair, the vice chair role seems like a good way to prepare and develop the perspective as that person is present during the business of the commission.

Committee members agreed to keep language as written.

Trivers: Vacancies are off; need to address terms ending in the City this coming year.

Levy: Possibly need to inquire if new mayor can meet with RAC to work this out.

Cooksey: She and Lea have reached out to Michele in the mayor’s office, and Jay in the county executive’s office for a notes comparison and formally introduce herself as part of the onboarding process; after that, it would be good to set up introductory meetings with the mayor and the county executive to address the chair seat, and the open seat in the county; she will return to this committee with outcomes and recommendations.

Levy: He expressed interest in attending meeting with the mayor and county executive.

Discussion held regarding past and current commissioner term limits/expirations, and importance of having accurate records.

Trivers: Inquired as to follow-up regarding Orv Kimbrough and his interest as a prospective commissioner.

Walker: Spoke with Kimbrough and he did not currently have the capacity to join; he did share that Greg Schaller, senior vice president at Midwest BankCentre, could be a helpful prospect.

Levy: Need to expand this committee; possibly reach out to Corcoran who could not do Ad Hoc but could be helpful in this area if she's able.

Wilson: Should think about lining up a vice chair for next year, assuming Walker might be the chair for next year; that person could start thinking about which committee assignments they want; should line up someone for 2022 to serve as chair for 2023.

Cooksey: Shared her screen/spreadsheet of term limits for each commissioner; the goal of her meeting with Michele is to get full four (4) year terms; Lea will be working on updating spreadsheet.

Levy: To Wilson's point about a vice chair – Purnell would be the next likely vice chair as she has the most seniority.

Wilson: Concurred.

Trivers: Recommended Wilson.

Wilson: Will be unavailable to serve as chair in 2023; maybe in 2025.

Cooksey: Once she and Lea clean-up the spreadsheet, it will also be added to the digital handbook.

Nominations for Currently Open County Discussion

Levy: Last meeting he talked about Brian Owens; good idea of having a working artist/connected to the music scene; idea of promoting the music economy in this region is important and Owens would be a help there.

Trivers: Corcoran mentioned more visual art – graphic arts.

Action item: Walker knows Brian Owens and will reach out to him.

Other Discussion Items

Action item: Cooksey and Lea will work with Trivers to insert updated language into the bylaws.

Levy: Send out bylaws prior to next board meeting for commission review.

Trivers: Recommended meeting minutes be shared within one week of the meeting.

Cooksey: Now also recording meetings to attach with minutes for review for next meeting; Lea will draft and send to respective chairs for their initial review, then send to respective committees accordingly.

Trivers: Not sure about sending to full commission.

Levy: By sending comprehensive minutes in advance, it saves more time for substantive issues.

Wilson: Asked for clarity regarding term limits for Walsh, Soluade and Johnson; decision about inviting them to serve another term.

Levy: Will reach out to them after Cooksey meets with Michele Knox; Walker should be involved with this conversation as vice chair and possibly the next chair.

Trivers: Will check on her own term letter and provide an update.

Additional discussion regarding partial terms; how senate bill is written and ambiguity of the language.

Adjournment

Trivers adjourned the April 23rd Governance Committee meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Submitted by Lea Sutherlin
Administrative Consultant