

COMMUNITY ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

6:30 PM, Monday, July 15, 2019
3700 South Four Mile Run Drive
Arlington, VA 22206

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

MEMBERS:

	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Maggie Boland (MB)	x		Janet Kopenhaver (JK)	x	
Ava Boston (Ava)	Via phone		Yasmina Mansour (YM)		x
Alex Bryce (AB)		x	Amy McWilliams (AM)	x	
Carol Cadby (CC)		x	Leslie Peterson (LP)		x
Sara Duke (SD)	x		Tom Prewitt (TP)	x	
Pam Farrell (PF)	x		Matthew Randall (MR)	x	
Jane Franklin (JF)	x		Kat Williams (KW)	x	
Pryalal Karmakar (PK)	x		Steven Yates (SY)	x	

CHAIR: Anika Kwinana (AK)

FACILITATOR: Richard Brewster (RB)

STAFF PRESENT: Jill Hunger (JH), Shannon Flanagan-Watson (SFW), Cindy Richmond (CR)

INTRODUCTIONS

I. Welcome

- The meeting was called to order by AK at 6:40 pm; quorum present.
- Shannon Flanagan-Watson, Deputy County Manager, highlighted WHY the committee was formed. SFW reiterated the value of the arts in the community – and that they are fundamentally important to the County Manager (CM), the County Board (CB) and Arlington Economic Development (AED).
- Anika Kwinana (AK), Chair of the Committee, reviewed the agenda and stressed HOW the arts groups worked together to start this specific conversation is important.

II. Introductions

- AK introduced herself and asked committee members to introduce themselves, identifying their organization and the community arts services they use.

LEVEL SETTING

III. Review of Project Scope & Work Plan

- Jill Hunger (JH), Project Manager for the Committee, reviewed the scope of work with the Committee. She stated that it was very narrow in focus and highlighted the four tasks.
- SFW reiterated the defined scope and charge. She spoke briefly about the newly adopted arts strategy – Enriching Lives: Arlington Art and Culture Strategy. SFW stated that recommendations from the committee would be more helpful if comprehensive. Potentially the recommendations could be a series of options. The CMO has no preconceived notions but clarified that the one option NOT on the table is the status quo.
- Steven Yates (SY) ask about the issues with the status quo.
- SFW clarified that the CMO wants to determine “what is the role of the government?”

- There was general conversation around this topic. JH stated that government looks to efficiencies & effectiveness of service delivery. Cindy Richmond (CR) stated that the world has changed over these last 30 years. The Internet! Operations have changed in those resulting years. APS is now at the table for these discussions. SFW asked the committee to think about the broader audience. AK followed up on JH's two "E"s (efficiencies and effectiveness) with EQUITY. How is access provided and how to evaluate this access?
- Several members of the committee pressed on the question: "what is the status quo?"
- SFW explained that status quo is how it is currently operating. She related that this doesn't mean the county won't have a role moving forward. She provided an example – CostumeLab – where only a handful of groups are using the inventory/low numbers/pieces.
- Matthew Ryan (MR) affirmed that the CostumeLab is underutilized. He suggested that we need to understand why, what are changes to increase usage. It is the committee's job to discuss the fixes. AK added that this will help to inform strategies.
- Pam Farrell (PF) asked about the use & cost to maintain? CR stated that much is found in the notebook.

IV. Ground Rules

- AK provided an overview of initial ground rules and asked the committee to add. RB stated that this list could be updated over time.
- PF – added agree to disagree/positive intent. Use name card to signal intent to speak.
- Sara Duke (SD) – Think creatively.
- MR – Stay positive. RB stated that this is good as there is still lots of negativity. Janet Kopenhaver (JK) suggested that it was more of discouragement. Agreed that the committee should be positive & forward looking.
- AK added speak for yourselves, not on behalf of others. Identify personal v. group.
- Maggie Boland (MB) – respect differences of opinion.

V. Expectations & Responsibilities

- JH reviewed the consensus prime.
- AK clarified there are several resources in the room (RB, JH, CR, SFW) and reminded that this is a committee of the County Manager.
- RB stated that "can live with it" as an agreement can be powerful.
- MR asked if decisions should be unanimous or majority? RB stated his experience suggests the group aim for "can live with it" and not have a vote.
- PF thought that taking the status quo off the table helps to get to the harder discussions.

VI. Background & Resources

- JH provided an overview of resources (plus the notebook). Links are on the web page and within the presentation.

MOVING FORWARD

VII. Story Circle

- AK led the Story Circle and asked each person in the room for a word that described the arts in Arlington to them. There was much similarity. AK collected the words and [created a graphic](#) (shared at the end of the meeting).

VIII. Interview Findings

- RB went through the presentation slides and discussed his findings from the interviews.
- There were questions raised by the committee about the joint use agreements.
- MR stated thoughts about the accessibility of the CostumeLab. He stated that, because it is within the school, there was limited (to no) access to a sewing machine, washer, dryer, dyeing, or other resources.

- RB stated that one question was about the use of APS – specifically the community use of the schools when schools not in use.
- MR asked for clarification about the mobile stage. KW and AM confirmed it was truly mobile. Must be towed, but can go anywhere provided clearance isn't an issue.
- AK referenced that she knows many committee members have already met and are thinking collaboratively e.g. "The Four Families".
- TP asked about the joint agreement. SFW stated that there is an old MOU.
- PF explained that these agreements were part of an older system when developed. Schools didn't have theater programs at the time. Practices changed over time. APS contracts with Artistic Concepts. APS faces changing enrollment & programs. How well does the agreement work now...what are the needs of APS and the groups?
- MR asked if Signature has a scene shop? MB answered yes, but it is small....many sets are built on site requiring the theater to go dark.

IX. Planning the Work

- Calendaring the meetings
 - AK informed the committee that at least 4 more meetings of the whole were required and suggested meeting every 3 weeks. The following dates were agreed upon by the committee:
 - Thursday, August 8 @ 6:30
 - Thursday, August 29 @ 6:30
 - Thursday, September 19 @ 6:30
 - Thursday, October 10 @ 6:30
 - Thursday, October 17 @ 6:30
- Homework/subcommittees - RB (5 minutes)
 - RB stated that the homework included a couple of items: review the material and start asking questions and determining if additional data is required; and subcommittee work. There are three subcommittees: Scene Shop/Costume Lab. Mobile Stage, and Joint Use. The subcommittees will meet between the full committee meetings. RB & JH will be involved in all the subcommittee meetings.
 - The committee reviewed the proposed subcommittees (see Meeting #1 Presentation). One change was made: shift SY from Scene Shop/Costume Lab to the Joint Use Agreement. [**NOTE:** post meeting discussions suggest retaining SY in Scene Shop/Costume Lab and add SD to Joint Use Agreement.]
 - RB & JH will provide templates to the groups which may include criteria.
- Other
 - TP asked about the relationship with APS & arts groups. Several groups work with students. This is outside of the scope and will be part of the "PARKING LOT" discussion.
 - RB clarified that all general questions should be emailed to JH. Staff will discuss how best to provide answers to the questions.
 - Staff will investigate the best ways to share documents.
 - There were numerous questions and it was reiterated that the committee members need to review all the background information found in their notebooks.

ADJOURN

- The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.