

Orange County Arts Commission

Board Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2010, 6:00 pm

Attendees: Charles Hochman, Gordon Jameson, Emily Lees, Robert Kintz, Leah Rade, Nedra Bradsher, Lauri Alexander.

Absent: Wendy Gellert, Geoffrey Hathaway, Shannon Jackson, Mary Harley Kruter, Alice Levinson, Bronwyn Merritt, Mike Nelson, BOCC Liaison.

Staff: Martha Shannon

Meeting called to order by R. Kintz at 6:05.

L. Rade motioned to accept minutes from last meeting, E. Lees seconded.

M. Shannon gave directors report. Article about OCAC 25th Anniversary will be in Chapel Hill News.

Public information meeting for Spring 2010 Grants will be Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7 – 8:30 pm at the Chapel Hill Public Library.

Note the article and minutes from Hillsborough Historic District Commission RE: the Wayne Trapp sculpture for the new library. This demonstrates the need to create guidelines for public art to be used by HDC. We need to also demonstrate to BOCC that the process used by OCAC to select public art works and is inline with other public art projects. County and town of Hillsborough needs to catch up with this process.

Need one volunteer to judge Congressional High School Art Competition on Thurs., April 22 or Fri., April 23. L. Rade tentatively volunteered.

Spring grants will be a challenge as legal department wants to replace letter of agreement used since 1985 with a lengthy contract for grantees. They may want to pay grants in 2 installments.

BOCC's next Budget Work Session is April 8th and next Work Session is April 13th.

R. Kintz attended March 4th BOCC meeting.

County Manager feels citizen boards and commissions can be run better if they become private non-profits and suggests spinning off OCAC (among many others) from being county supported. BOCC should contact OCAC for comment on this proposal and seek alternatives. OCAC needs to impress on BOCC the need to preserve OCAC.

Co. Manager believes OCAC is not the most common form of an arts commission. General discussion suggests this is short sighted. Members don't see how OCAC would work better for the county as a non-profit. Urgent need to develop strong defense to BOCC in favor of retaining OCAC as is.

(N. Bradsher) Need good financial argument in favor of OCAC.

(G. Jameson) Quality of life and educational aspects are important to emphasize. Must make a strong case directly to commissioners.

(L. Alexander) If OCAC were a non-profit, where is the accountability? County has oversight now.

(M. Shannon) If OCAC were a non-profit there would be less money available for grants to schools, etc.

(R. Kintz) This isn't about saving money but about saving a very positive, functioning commission.

(E. Lees) 25th anniversary of OCAC provides it the opportunity to showcase its accomplishments.

Action plan is to put together an advocacy statement and demonstrate why OCAC should be retained as a county supported institution. N. Bradsher will work on developing statistics. L. Rade and E. Lees will contact previous grant recipients. Develop a model letter of support of OCAC to be used by grant recipients and others.

Recommended Jae Furman be appointed to OCAC Board to fill out Rachel Lillis' remaining term.

Need to designate a use for current year CIP funds (\$5,000) for a public art project from FY 2009. Tabled until next meeting.

L. Alexander motioned to adjourn, N. Bradsher seconded.

Minutes humbly submitted by Gordon Jameson