

The Official Minutes of the Orange County Arts Commission March 12, 2007 Meeting

Present were:

Martha Shannon, Director
Alice Levinson, Chair
Bonnie B. Fuchs, Secretary
Dan Barker
Tyler Dockery
Robert Kintz

Mary Harley Kruter
Gordon Jameson

Not present:
Lauri Alexander
Geoffrey Hathaway
Tammy Lambert
Rachel Lillis

A collector never, ever, ever, ever makes a decision based on what looks good over the sofa.
- - Bill Hester, Hester Fine Art, University Square

1. Chair Alice Levinson called the meeting to order.
2. **Noah Ranells**, Agriculture Economic Development Coordinator for Orange County, has proposed a **Quilt Barn Project for Orange County**.
 - a. The concept is much like looking for hex signs on Amish barns in Bucks County, PA; creating an appealing vista for residents and tourists alike. Such a project would put quilt block designs on barns in Orange County and draw attention to the county's agricultural districts not usually known for color & design.
 - b. The first questions discussed were "*How to manage?*" the project and more importantly "*How to begin?*"
 - i. The issue of finding suitable barns and soliciting the cooperation of the owners is half the project.
 - ii. The other-half is the selection of quilt patterns and getting volunteer carpenters+painters to prepare and paint the panels for hanging.
 - iii. **Shannon** contributed the notion that volunteer firemen or utility trucks are likely resources for hanging the painted panels.
 - c. Ranells is to speak to the county extension service to enlist their cooperation and **Bonnie Fuchs** will submit the idea to the Durham-Orange Quilters Guild for consideration at their next board meeting [see end note].
 - d. **Gordon Jameson** raised a question about the OCAC's capability to organize and supervise the whole project. **Shannon** and **Ranells** recounted that the cooperation and involvement of more than one county agency will be needed.
 - e. **Shannon** will also contact **Jane Lonon** at the Ashe County Arts Council seeking feedback as to their experience instituting such a project and the process that proved to work best for them.

3. Minutes of the February '07 meeting were submitted for approval. **Gordon Jameson** moved the minutes be approved; **Robert Kintz** seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

4. **Martha Shannon** submitted additional items to the Director's Report.
 - a. The real estate company of *Allan Tate*, as per Susie Smith, director for business development for the company, who is seeking to fund cultural arts in Orange County.
 - i. Smith was unaware that the realtor *Howard Perry & Walston, Inc.* is currently supplementing the Arts Commission budget with company - employee designated contributions.
 - ii. H.P.W. Inc., employees have contributed
 - (1) \$1275 in 2004
 - (2) \$1749 in 2005
 - (3) \$2331 in 2006.
 - iii. Contributions by other businesses and individuals are welcome for the purpose of promoting cultural art.

 - b. **Seymour Senior Center** on Homestead Road, Chapel Hill is nearing occupancy. The Arts Commission has requested at least \$10,000 in the FY08 CIP for a public art project at this site (requested by the Dept. on Aging).
 - i. **Shannon** pointed out that more details would be needed before a selection committee could be formed.
 - ii. **Mary Harley Kruter** pointed out that a county *Percent for Art* resolution would avoid bothering BOCC for approvals for each and every project that requests art installations (per Chapel Hill).
 - iii. **Tyler Dockery** asked "*why isn't everyone coming to us?*" What will it take to convince the county that an arts commission, capable of planning and completing art installations, exists here?

 - c. **Martha Shannon** referred to the "*Plant the Arts*" bulletin from the state promoting an increase in the state budget for the arts. A proposed five-million dollar increase in the budget is being discussed as to whether it would be a recurring, or non-recurring line item.
 - d. The Orange County Economic Development Commission's annual "State of the Local Economy" breakfast will be **Tuesday March 13** at the Carolina Club. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m., and brings together county department officials and the public.
 - e. **Shannon** reported that **Joseph Hackney**, state legislator from this county has been elected Speaker of the House in the NC Legislature. As Speaker, Hackney will decide the agenda for, and include discussion about, the arts in North Carolina.

- f. **Mary Harley Kruter** pointed out that with a new county manager the opportunity to promote the *Percent for Arts* in Orange County was never better.
 - g. Charles Johnson's request for \$600 for travel expenses was tabled, asking that Johnson submit a proper Grant Form next month. Johnson is a NC composer/musician selected to perform at a Vancouver music festival.
5. The *Ad Hoc* Committee reports:
- a. Staff reported that the new Orange County Arts Commission website will be 'live' by the end of the week, revealing months of effort by staff and the ad hoc Website Committee. More information about OC grants, art events and competitions can be listed and accessed from the new web design. *A job well done!*
 - b. Chair **Levinson** thanked **Gordon Jameson** for his contribution to the "Dogs" project (sculptures for the Animal Shelter). Two steel dogs have been installed temporarily by sculptor Mike Roig, on the lawn of the Historic Orange County Courthouse in Hillsborough.
 - i. **Shannon** had questions about the signage. The cost of a 'brick-sized' sign for \$25, or a paving-stone size (12x12), was suggested. Jameson offered to contribute a paving stone for the purpose, same to be inserted into the sod, flush with the ground.
 - ii. The dogs are tentatively named "Sit" and "Stay," until reaching their permanent home.
 - iii. A Hillsborough downtown merchant (owner of "Fetch") has volunteered to distribute free handouts to downtown merchants to explain the dogs to visitors.
6. President **Alice Levinson** turned the discussion to nominating new art commissioners for the coming year. The recent resignation of **Amy Lawson** leaves another chair open for a volunteer.
- a. The updated list of candidates was reviewed and discussion continued about whom to nominate.
 - i. Last month Director Shannon tried to contact and confirm the following names: Andrea Lockwood, Jennifer Mackey, Joe Nanny and Albert Peloquin. Those called either refused the nomination or did not respond. **Leah Rade**, **Shannon Jackson** and **Linda Marko** are both interested in serving.
 - ii. This month the board suggested **Dawn Brezina** and **Mary Jane Felgenhauer** to be called by staff to determine their interest in appointment by the BOCC.
 - iii. The BOCC will consider our recommendations at their regular meeting on March 27th.

- b. **Robert Kintz** moved that a vote of thanks be given to the departing board members. **Tyler Dockery** seconded the motion. Chair **Levinson** thanked Fuchs and Jameson, the retiring board members, for their contributions.
 - i. **Bonnie B. Fuchs** stated that she felt serving on the commission was a privilege she had very much enjoyed and hopes that more citizens will contribute time and talent to the arts community.
 - ii. **Gordon Jameson** reiterated that serving on the commission had been a pleasure, one he hopes to renew after a year's absence.
- 7. **Gordon Jameson** moved for the session to adjourn; **Robert Kintz** seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.
- 8. Suggestions for the April "**ART Moment**" may be sent to Martha Shannon.
- 9. ORANGE COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION will meet next on **April 9, 2007** 6:00-7:30 p.m., at the EDC Conference Room, Hillsborough.

Submitted 11 April 2007 for review & approval,
Bonnie B. Fuchs
Retiring Secretary

COPY: **Bronwyn Merritt**; abmd@nc.rr.com
Incoming Secretary

UPDATE: Noah Ranells

My findings reveal that both Noah and the DOQ have board meetings on the first Monday of each month. Since his presence will not be possible at the April 2 meeting, the alternative is to ask fewer board members to meet ad hoc.

I spent some time with Katherine Nelson Wednesday [3/28] talking about the project and what the scope of DOQ's efforts would be. Nelson is prepared to present the concept to the DOQ board meeting and ask for at least two other board members to meet with Noah at some time *before the April 16* membership meeting.

Meantime Martha has forwarded notes from Jane Lonon of Ashe County which will be invaluable in outlining the process for garnering participating organizations and business sponsors.