

Bloomington Arts Commission
Wednesday, February 8th, 2017
5 to 6:30 pm
McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcome – Sally Gaskill, Chair
2. Public Comment
3. January Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Staff Report – Sean Starowitz
6. Chair's Report - Sally Gaskill
7. 2017- BAC Grant Scoring Criteria
-Review/Finalize.
8. BAC Strategic Planning - 3 Year Plan.
- Final Review
9. Public Meeting - Location/Date.
10. Commissioner Announcements
11. Good of the order/Adjournment

2017 Meetings

March 8th
April 12th
May 10th
June 14th
July 12th
August 9th
September 13th
October 11th
November 8th
December 13th

BAC Minutes January 11, 2017

Gabe Colman, Martina Celerin, Abby Perfitti, Jan Grant, Lynn Schwartzberg, Peter Jacobi, Katie Skayhan, Sean Starowitz, Sally Gaskill, Michael Wilkerson, half a really large cake with chocolate icing.

They called to order before I got there. They had eaten half the cake by 5:05. Unbelievable.

Martina Celerin gave a treasurer's report. The Commission has more money than it has a right to expect, at least in the "402" fund which has \$61,400 in it and nothing out of it was spent in 2016. But \$12,750 was spent out of it in 2015.

Abby noted that the BAC spent \$6000 on the Dale Enochs sculpture. Where did that money come from? Was she tricked into thinking it was from the commission when she wrote a personal check for it?

Does the BAC paint over graffiti? This is both a budgetary and a philosophical question. Everyone loves a mystery as well as a conundrum.

Now the 403 fund, which is the operating account, formerly known as the "postcard account," though you have to go way back to know what that was. It has money added every two years. "Predominantly a pass-through account for programming."

Your secretary was feeling very smug about getting a fresh Dr. Pepper to take into the meeting but this budget discussion has him wishing he had a hip flask instead.

Who could blame Lynn for continuing to cut giant slices of cake in this kind of environment?

Sean dug deep for last year's spending, some of which went to help Lotus with their adorable not so new building. Lotus didn't get to be a major world music festival by being stupid!

It was agreed that we should think in advance about what to spend our money on. We have \$4,518 to use in the 403 fund.

Staff report: 30K budget request to BUEA; Sean met with them today to discuss merging programming and grant efforts. We will have representatives sitting in on each other's grant cycles. This is how East Germany and West Germany eventually rejoined each other. "Arts in the Zone" will be the concept of this new nation.

The 7th Street garage will be beautified which will make the college students drink less when they are across the street at Sports. This money will be funded by the Parking department.

Sean is working with Ed Comentale on a Vonnegut festival. Summer or fall? Formal or not so formal? Totally Vonnegut or Vonnegutish? Working on it. So it goes. Sean did not know that your secretary was turned onto the arts generally and literature specifically when his parents mistakenly gave him one of those groovy early Seventies box sets of antiestablishment Vonnegut paperbacks. Otherwise your secretary would have been a lawyer and might well be serving in the Trump administration as a cabinet member in the Department of Gun Ownership or something.

Sean is working on a space survey, specifically targeting live-work studios. Trying to create an inventory of all creative businesses, organizations, etc, in town.

Martina: What about the old hospital? Lots of rooms there. Sean: Not out of the question, though some of the hospital is unsalvageable. Might be bringing in a strong consultant to help. Sean mentioned a successful conversion by Springboard for the Arts in Minnesota. We talked of bringing Laura Zabel to town to advise.

Bender Lumber (Margaret Fette) is looking for artists to rent studios on 11th St.

Chair's Report: Cake is tribute to Jan's last meeting. We are soooo sad. Where is the wine? Another time?

Secretary took a phone call and returned to an argument about Sylvester Stallone! Since he turned down the chairmanship of the National Endowment for the Arts, there is a push to try to get Indiana's Lewis Ricci the job, but we will see. No real awareness on the state level as to changes in the IAC. Work continues on a film permit for the city to try to track filmmaking activity in town. Sharing some resources with Indy on film recruiting.

It's a budget year at the state and Sally will keep us posted as to the lay of the land. Fresca urged attendance at advocacy workshops such as the one upcoming on Tuesday, January 17.

2017 Grants: Application forms were passed out. BUEA and BAC. Ours is longer! Ha! Sean working on a new format for the user.

Sally: Applicants have not been great at listing outcomes. Abby: Amen. Need clarification of that in the guidelines. Better examples? Word limit? Should we incentivize new orgs, new works, or new projects? How shall we use a rubric? Generally the commissioners are pro-rubric. Some discomfort suggested by the sub-category bullet points; how specific should the rubric be? How did we end up in a teaching workshop? Sean suggested 3 sub categories each. In the end: 40% Artistic 40% Community Impact 20% Organizational Capacity. Sean volunteered to make Katie fix it. Should there be a fourth category for special goals (diversity, something new and cool, beyond the bounds, etc.). Should there be 5 or 10 points for this special category? Should the police be called in?

Philosophical question: should the BAC "push" grantees to do things we want? Abby says Sure. Sean said sure. Peter and Lynn raised the issue of not pushing the groups too far and beyond their missions. Abby, however, pushed back in favor of innovation, youth, and all the things her generation favors. She has moved her own artistic advocacy and

participation toward newer, younger, cooler, more diverse organizations. WWJS? (What Would Jan Say?) She said: It's all about balance. Stay centered, open to new ways and new audiences, but the older orgs are going to have to be more creative. The BAC needs to support both sides of this divide.

Sean said the current guidelines and how they are interpreted are going to allow room for judgment of new cool things. The commissioners wished good luck to Katie on her revising of the guidelines.

We have a \$100,000 arts budget this year! 60% is grants. This is awesome so back off Sylvester Stallone.

Can we get the new guidelines out in January? Like bears emerging from hibernation, we are optimists. There will be an email scrutiny by the commissioners and then it will be circulated.

Should the maximum be \$1500? Francesca said maybe it's too low. One case study from last year was a first time applicant which didn't work out; still, we should encourage such folks with a streamlined application and a smaller amount of funding?

Last year's maximum was \$1200, said Sally. So let's go to \$2,000 as a possible maximum. This puts us in the same area (though not Zone) as the BUEA. We will track applicants and make sure we are aware of how many deserving applications are there. Commissioners agreed on this.

Sally proposed a special meeting to talk about arts funding overall, not just everyone's little piece of it. This would involve the commission and the BUEA to go over all the possible public funding and help develop a coordinating understanding between bodies and to publicize arts possibilities to all those clamoring publics.

Sean passed out the red hot newest draft of the city strategic plan – we're getting friggin homework! We agreed to read it and send comments to Sean and/or his ~~unlucky victim~~ assistant, Katie.

Martina urged a more frequent press release to the media, which especially means the Herald-Times.

Sally started in on the document, then suddenly realized that it was ding nigh 6:30, so we agreed to spend quality time in front of our respective fireplaces with our respective cats and/or ferrets, to submit comments to Sean and the unfortunate Katie by February 3.

This left only a couple of minutes to wish Jan a great life after 7 years of commissionering. She is a really nice person to have put up with all this and all these people. As her last act as a commissioner (a little bit like Obama dropping the mic at the correspondent's dinner), Jan adjourned the meeting.

