

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
TUESDAY, December 5, 2017
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
RICHARDS HALL, DIXON UNIVERSITY
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jeffrey Parks, Chair; Mr. Jeffrey Gabel, Vice Chair; Ms. Jennifer Zaborney, Secretary; Ms. Jeanne Gleason; Ms. Susan Goldberg; Mr. William Lehr, Jr.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT via telephone conference: Ms. Gayle Isa, Ms. Paula Vitz

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mr. Justin Laing, Senator Charles McIlhinney, Representative Tina Pickett, Representative Brian Sims, Mr. Lee Steadman, Senator Christine Tartaglione, Mr. Jim West

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Philip Horn, Executive Director; Ms. Heather Doughty, Deputy Executive Director; Ms. Amy Gabriele, Deputy Director for Administration; Mr. Seth Poppy, Program Director; Ms. Jamie Dunlap, Program Director; Ms. Norah Johnson, Dir. of New Projects & Capabilities; Ms. Dana Payne, Program Director; Mr. Matt Serio, Program Director; Ms. Charlotte Flynn Michalski, Acting Executive Assistant; and, Ms. Sarah Merritt, Special Assistant to the Executive Director and the Council.

Item 1: Call to Order - Chairman Parks called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Item 2: Roll Call - Secretary Zaborney called the roll. A quorum was established.

Item 3: Approval of October Meeting Minutes - Motion by Mr. Lehr. Seconded by Ms. Goldberg. Motion carried.

Item 4: Update on Proposed Research into the Arts and Community Revitalization – Ms. Johnson presented an overview of a draft scope of work to engage the PA Downtown Center in a research project. She asked for direction from Council.

Mr. Parks asked for the full scope of work document, so Council could review more detail.

Ms. Johnson stated that while she did not have the full document with her, what had been drafted was still in early form as we are at the beginning of the discussion about the research and its focus.

Mr. Parks asked if the PCA sent out an RFP to other institutions or if the PA Downtown Center was the selection.

Ms. Johnson stated that the PCA did not send out an RFP but, had approached the PA Downtown Center about the research.

Mr. Parks asked that an RFP be created and sent out to higher education institutions that conduct this type of work.

Mr. Parks asked if it was possible to conduct a survey. He posited that the mission of the PCA is to make sure that all Pennsylvanians have access to the arts, but do Pennsylvanians actually feel they do? He stated that the Council had spent a lot of time discussing access to the arts and suggested that the larger question might be 'what are the arts?' Because, he asserted, people have access to computers and digital media. He said that Council really must think through why it is embarking on this work and what information it wishes to collect. He said it is important to figure this out because the PCA will use it in creating its next strategic plan. He continued, saying that he was not saying he didn't want to give the work to the PA Downtown Center, but that he'd like to postpone action until the PCA is working on its strategic plan.

Mr. Horn said that the PCA's intent with the scope of work was to identify practitioners doing this type of work who are willing to take it on for the Council.

Mr. Parks stated that he'd rather see – if the staff has the time – some research undertaken to find out what higher education institutions in-state are doing this type of work on urban revitalization.

Mr. Horn suggested it be postponed until the spring Council meeting for a longer discussion.

Mr. Parks agreed and said by then the PCA will be able to put together a more comprehensive RFP because the research must tie in to the new strategic plan.

Item 5: Regional Artists Project (RAP) Grant – Ms. Payne told the Council that she originally presented the RAP concept in December of 2016. She said that today she was presenting a tentative program design and answer any questions. She explained that the program is designed to provide underserved constituencies with access to the arts and to serve as a catalyst for sustainable arts services.

Ms. Payne asked Council if there were any questions.

Mr. Gabel asked a question about the \$50,000 grant amount and the 50% match.

Ms. Payne replied that the 50% match could be in-kind – project coordinator salary, space rental, etc.

Mr. Gabel expressed concern that the match might eliminate the small rural and diverse organizations the PCA is working to reach.

Mr. Horn stated that Ms. Payne will be going out to talk to artists and organizations about the program before she presents the final program design to Council for the next FY.

Ms. Payne told Council that she will be visiting organizations in January, February, and March. During those visits she will give a presentation and will talk to interested artists, individuals, and organization staff.

Ms. Gleason asked a question about the required project coordinator. She wondered if this requirement would imply that an organization had to have paid staff.

Ms. Payne stated that, when the program was being designed, she was thinking that the paid personnel would come from the sponsoring organization. She said that an organization having

paid staff would provide sustainability of the project.

Ms. Gleason stated that the grant funds would then primarily go toward paying the artist(s).

Mr. Horn stated that proposals would have to be submitted and then vetted by a panel.

Ms. Payne said that as she was meeting with people out in the field would be able to identify any necessary changes to the program design before coming back to Council with the final design.

Ms. Isa asked how many grants would initially be awarded.

Ms. Payne said that the PCA would start with four or five.

Ms. Isa asked if the PCA would consider awarding smaller grant amounts. She suggested that some small organizations might be more likely to apply if they could do so for a smaller amount.

Ms. Payne stated that she is open to it and will learn more when she is talking to people during her visits.

Ms. Isa stated that she liked that the program design stressed organizations with experience in community programming. She wanted to stress the importance of rewarding organizations that have a demonstrated commitment to serving underserved communities. She explained that, in her experience, programs like this can attract larger organizations that jump on the bandwagon without having any roots or commitment in the community.

Ms. Payne agreed and said that often organizations go into communities, provide the program, and leave. She emphasized the fact that sponsoring organizations will need to be deeply rooted in the communities in which the residency is taking place.

Mr. Horn stated that he believed a lot of these issues will be addressed in the first round. He said that it will be very important that panelists understand and focus on the goals of the RAP grant program. He went on to say that almost all the diverse organizations the PCA serves are in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and, through this program, the PCA will be able to expand its reach.

Ms. Isa said that it is a great approach to building the capacity of entities rooted and committed to communities of color.

Mr. Horn said it will be up to the sponsors and applicants to make the case for serving people who have barriers to participation, whatever those barriers may be.

He asked if anyone had questions or comments.

Mr. Parks asked Ms. Jenny Hershour of Citizens for the Arts if she had any comments. Ms. Hershour said that Citizens would like to be involved in the research discussed at the beginning of the meeting (Item 4).

So that Council could go into executive session last, Mr. Parks skipped to the last items on the agenda.

Item 8: Chair's Report – Mr. Parks said that the search process had been interesting and PCA

had some great applicants for the executive director position. He thanked Council, Search Committee members, and staff for their hard work.

Mr. Parks reminded everyone that, until the new hire is official, no information about the individual should be made public. He thanked Ms. Merritt for her assistance coordinating the selection process. Mr. Parks said that he spoke with the search consultants, the Linzers, and they agreed that the PCA had selected a great candidate who will do a great job.

Item 9: Executive Director's Report – Mr. Horn handed out envelopes. He explained that the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) has a challenge grant. He said he would be thrilled if people would give any amount in honor of the PCA.

Ms. Gleason told the Council that she attended the NASAA Conference with Mr. Horn, in October. She said he was the star of the show and he gave a great speech.

Mr. Horn said in his speech he said that Pennsylvania had given all the great arts to the rest of the country.

Ms. Doughty directed Council to packets included with their meeting materials. She said that Ms. Gabriele created a great grant packet to send out to all grantees. She pointed out the documents included in the packet. She said that the new Grant Award Agreement now includes the terms and conditions and general provisions.

Ms. Gabriele stated that next year everything will be electronic.

Mr. Horn informed the Council that people might be confused this year because there are a number of actions they need to do to complete everything in the packet. He said that if anyone complained to them, to direct that person to talk to PCA staff.

Ms. Zaborney asked if the people who applied for the executive director position but were not selected for interview were contacted. She said that someone had asked her.

Mr. Parks said that the interviewees had been notified but not the other applicants.

Mr. Horn stated that human resources would contact everyone once the position has been formally filled.

*******Council went into Executive Session*******

Item 6: Search Committee Interviews and Recommendation of Candidate for PCA Executive Director – Jeanne Gleason moved, and William Lehr seconded: Moved that the Council offer the position of Executive Director to Karl Blischke, of Tallahassee, Florida, with a term to begin in January 2018 and that the Council Chair is authorized to work with the Pennsylvania Human Resources office to negotiate a salary and any other employment issues pursuant to state policies.
Motion passed unanimously.