

**CULTURAL COUNCIL of VOLUSIA COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**



**March 28, 2008**

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**MEMBERS:**

Katherine Smith-Williams, Chair  
Donna Sue Sanders, Vice Chair  
Bob Dahlen  
Bill Dreggors  
Steven Hardock  
Wendell Jarrard  
Tim Ludwig  
Jim Ward  
Sandra Wilson

**MEETING PLACE:**

Museum of Arts & Sciences,  
1040 Museum Blvd  
Daytona Beach, FL.

**STAFF:** Nancy Maddox, Mike Fincher

**Guests:** Wayne Atherholt, Eric Lariviere, Karen Harris, Jennifer Coolidge, Gary Libby, Richard Russell, Michael Sanden, Kelly Ferguson, Kathy Berman, Laurie Ring, James Olivari

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** - Chair Smith-Williams called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was called. Mr. Dahlen was absent. A quorum was declared. Member Sanders joined the meeting after roll was called. Ms. Smith-Williams opened the meeting by first thanking the Museum of Arts & Sciences for hosting the meeting and then expressed her thanks to Bob Dahlen for his services as Chair of the Council.

Chair Smith-Williams asked Mr. Fincher to provide a brief overview on the County re-organization and specifically the Leisure Services Division.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – From January 25, 2008 Regular Meeting. Ms. Wilson requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that “Sandra Wilson received the 2008 Silver Star Presidents Award from the Volusia League of Cities, nominated by the City of DeBary.” **MOTION** by Member Ward, 2nd by Member Wilson. *“To accept minutes as amended.”* **Motion passed unanimously.**

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ocean Center Expansion** – Member Sanders advised that the selection committee met on March 11 and narrowed the number of artists down to 38. Member Sanders advised that the construction was still planned for completion by the end of the year but that the County Council was not planning on a grand opening until later in the spring of 2009. The next meeting is scheduled for April to further refine the list.

**Historic Courthouse** – Mr. Fincher reported that the procurement process is underway. Contracts are being developed with each artist and commissioned project have already been started. All work should be in place by September 2008.

**Lifeguard & Beach Safety HQ** – Chair Smith-Williams reported that the selection committee met in February and toured the new building currently under construction. Several target areas were identified for public art. She advised that the project budget was \$45,000 and that \$40,000 would be used for new art and \$5,000 allocated for preserving, framing and displaying vintage photographs of Volusia County. Mr. Gary Libby sought recognition from the floor and advised that from his knowledge of the Art in Public Places ordinance, APP funds could not be used for this purpose. Funds must be used for the procurement of new, original artwork. A small amount can be reserved for maintenance of the procured art. Chair Smith-Williams asked staff to verify this and advised that if it is the case, she would so advise the Selection Committee and recommend that the project manager pay for the vintage photograph work with contingency funds if necessary

**Environmental Learning Center** – No report at this time. Project budget is still being developed

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Grant Eligibility Workshop** – Chair Smith-Williams advised that this committee still needs to meet with representative of the VCCA to address the issue of eligibility of festival organizations to receive CCG funding. She asked staff to remind the Council which members had been named to this committee. Mr. Fincher advised that Ms. Sanders had agreed to chair the committee and Mr. Jarrard and Ms. Wilson would serve on it. It was suggested that since there was no change in eligibility for the current year, that it might be useful to wait until after the Grant Review in May to convene. Staff will set up a date in conjunction with the VCCA for late May or early June.

**Education Committee** – Member Hardock will set up a meeting with Volusia County School Board personnel as soon as possible and will work with representatives of the VCCA. Member Ludwig offered to help with this committee as well.

**License Plate Committee** – **MOTION** by Member Jarrard, 2nd by Member Sanders. *“To authorize the License Plate Committee and Staff to produce and print a simple rack card promotional piece for distribution within 90 days.”* **Motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Ludwig advised that he will work with Express Printing who has already agreed to do the design and set up at no charge.

**Arts Map** – There was discussion about the practicality of re-printing the Volusia County Arts Map since the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) already has one in distribution. Gary Libby spoke on behalf to the CVB to state that he thought that if the CCVC wanted to print a quantity for their usage and change the cover to Volusia County Area Arts Map, it might be a less expensive alternative since the content of the CVB’s version already covers the entire county. Staff will work with Mr. Libby to look into this possibility.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Community Cultural Grant Update** – Mr. Fincher advised that this year there are 32 organizations applying for funding. Five organizations are still in a three-year eligibility cycle and, three organizations have applied for the first time. This leaves 27 applications to review at the meeting on May 9. At the present time, the amount of funding available is still unknown. The County Manager’s budget will be released in early July once the Tax Rate has been established. At the Grant Review meeting only scores will be determined. Specific allocation amounts will be brought to the Council at the July meeting once the budget has been established.

**Grant Application Eligibility for the Commemorative Air Force (CAF)** – Mr. Fincher presented a request from the CAF to be considered eligible for funding under the Community Cultural Grant. The CAF attended the mandatory workshop and submitted a complete grant application on time. It is Staff’s opinion that they meet all essential eligibility requirements with the exception of being a locally chartered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Their organization is nationally chartered and even though their local wing is operationally and fiscally autonomous, they do not have a local board of directors. Their structure is much like VSA Arts of Florida for which an exception is made. Mr. Fincher pointed out, and it was confirmed by Mr. Libby, Chair of the ECHO Board, that they had granted the CAF an exception to this requirement and approved an ECHO grant for them. Staff pointed out that approving their eligibility for consideration of having their grant reviewed does not guarantee that they will receive funding. They must still meet a minimum score from the Council. Chair Smith-Williams recognized Mr. Richard Russell representing the CAF who answered questions from the Council.

**MOTION** by Member Sanders, 2nd by Member Ward. *“To approve Staff’s recommendation to allow the Community Cultural Grant Application of the Commemorative Air Force to be eligible for consideration for funding, waiving, on an exception basis, the requirement of a local non-profit status.”* **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Report by Staff on the Status of State Funding for the Arts** – Ms. Maddox provided an overview of the current recommendations from the Florida State House and Senate for funding of the arts and historical resources in the upcoming budget cycle. The forecast is very bleak and she encouraged all organizations and individuals to contact their state reps to encourage them to retain some program funds for this year. She reported that she will be going to Tallahassee next week for Preservation Days and Volusia Day and would be meeting with as many reps as possible.

## **VCCA REPORT/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jennifer Coolidge, President of VCCA reported that several members of the VCCA spoke at the County Council meeting in opposition of renaming the Leisure Services Division the Parks Division with reference to culture or heritage. As a result the County Manger’s staff was requested by County Council to reconsider the name change and look into some alternative choices. Ms. Coolidge thanked the CCVC for their support of increased access to the Historic Courthouse for the Legendary Florida program. The policy is being reviewed. The VCCA and Staff are working on identifying a suitable location for the

VCCA's Tippen Davidson Memorial. She announced the next meeting would be at 8:30 a.m. on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Museum of Florida Art in DeLand.

Mr. Libby advised that ECHO would be holding two listening sessions to solicit feedback on ways to improve the program and asked the CCVC members to provide him with any recommendations that they might have. He went on to say that they had looked to see if there was any way in which excess ECHO funds could be used for non-capital cultural programs. The conclusion was that this would have to be taken back to the voters for consideration and there was little likelihood of that happening.

Mr. Libby also stated that there was a movement to try and get the city of Daytona Beach to name the park adjacent to the News-Journal Center after Tippen Davidson and asked the CCVC to provide their support for this effort.

Mr. Libby also agreed to have the Economic Impact Brochure reprinted and asked for assistance from Staff in compiling current data from this year's grant application.

Jennifer Coolidge brought up the issue of requirements for audits or financial reviews from organizations applying for the Community Cultural Grant was raised. The costs of these reports are increasing. In light of hard economic times she stated that several organizations have asked if there is any way that this financial burden could be lessened to any extent, perhaps by accepting a review vs. full audit, or perhaps requiring them less frequently. Mr. Fincher announced that a representative from a local CPA firm that does work for many non-profit organizations was in the audience and asked if he might be able to give a brief overview to the Council on the levels of financial oversight offered by certified accounting firms. Mr. James Oliveri, CPA explained that new federal regulations were requiring CPA's to do much more detailed analysis of a company's financial position in order to offer certification. These changes are driving the costs up by as much as 30% to 75% making it cost prohibitive for small to medium-sized organizations to apply for grants with stringent audit requirements. Mr. Oliveri advised that several national review panels have studied the situation and have recommended that a review in lieu of an audit be accepted for most organizations having annual budgets of less than \$1M.

Chair Smith-Williams stated that this issue needs to be placed on the agenda for a future meeting to allow Staff time to study the situation in more detail.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Chair Smith-Williams adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted- Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator and Recording Secretary.