

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 22, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO EXPAND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

ISSUE: Request from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts to expand its membership by adding a position for a student member (Attachment).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the addition of a position on the Commission for the Arts for one student who resides in the City and attends a high school located in the City of Alexandria and request the City Attorney to prepare the ordinance for introduction and first reading at the April 10 meeting.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Commission for the Arts was established in 1984 to support the development and expansion of the arts in Alexandria and serve as the single funding source for all activities concerning the arts which are not conducted as part of a regularly scheduled City program. There are 15 members on the Commission: five members with expertise in the arts, five members who represent the public-at-large, and five members who represent arts education or business expertise relative to the arts and cultural development. The Commission believes that it is important to engage the City's youth in the arts and has determined that there are students who are interested in becoming more involved in providing more avenues for artistic expression in the City. At its August 22, 2006 meeting, the Commission for the Arts voted unanimously to request that Council expand its membership from 15 to 16 to provide a position for a high school youth. I support this request.

ATTACHMENT: February 27 letter from Pat Miller to Rose Boyd

STAFF: Rose Williams Boyd, Executive Secretary for Boards and Commissions



February 27, 2007

Received

Ms. Rose Boyd, Director
Office of Citizen Assistance
Room 1900 City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

MAR 02 2007
CITIZEN ASSISTANCE
Office

Dear Rose:

Please consider this a formal request from the Commission for the Arts to create a position on the Alexandria Commission for the Arts for a student. We need this position to be a voting member of the Commission.

Requirements are that the student be in student in high school in Alexandria and the student must reside in the City of Alexandria.

I have attached the minutes from August 22, 2006 which shows the motion that the Commission would like this position created.

If there is more information you need, please let me know, I can best be reached via email at pmiller1806@comcast.net. Greatly appreciate all your help!

My sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

Pat Miller, Chair
Alexandria Commission for the Arts



**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
CORRECTED/APPROVED--Tuesday, 22 August 2006 at 6:00 P.M.
Dr. Oswald Durant Center, Alexandria VA**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:19 P.M. by Chair, Pat Miller.
- b. Commissioners' Attendance:
 - i. Present: Jim Allison, Betsy Anderson, George Chadwick, Pat Miller, David Roane, Patti North-Rudin, Susan Sanders, Sylvia Saborio, Marla Howell and Marc Sukolsky.
 - ii. Absent: Mary Chaffe Brooks, Donna Fowler, Ellen Harris, and Colette Wachtel.
 - iii. Staff Present: Janet Barnett and Cheryl Anne Colton
 - iv. Visitors Present: Janet I. Thomas, Bible Stories Theatre Fine Arts; Ron Field, Port City Playhouse; Leslie Clark, Chinquapin Center; June Whelan, Washington Balalika Society Orchestra; Dexter Fox, Fairfax Choral Society; Ann Dorman, First Night Alexandria; Syliva DeMar, Betsy Davis and Amy Gallagher Springwater Fiber Workshop; Mollie Danforth, Alexandria Symphony; Marga C. Fripp, Empowered Women International; David M. Martin, KSMET/Gold Works; Jim Lucey, Alexandria Harmonizers; Mike Sandifer, Virginia Opera; and Alexis Joyce, Alexandria Choral Society.

II. PUBLIC HEARING/OPEN FORUM: Three speakers presented their viewpoints regarding the proposed "weighted options" formulae for the upcoming 2006-2007 grants process.

- a. Ann Dorman (First Night) presented "First Night's" opinion that Alexandria-based organizations should be the only ones permitted to receive grants from the Commission.
- b. Molly Danforth from the Alexandria Symphony stressed that "quality versus quantity" should enter into the evaluative equation in grants letting and the Commission's informal feedback process re: the grants process should be institutionalized as part of the grants process.
- c. Rob Fields from the Port City Playhouse asked what drove and formed the final version of the weighing scheme for grants approval and evaluation.
- d. Pat Miller and Jim Allison provided the genesis of how the scoring and weighing system was developed. A Task Force was formed where the historically significant areas of consideration had weighted percentages attached providing the Commissioners an evaluative tool to better judge the impact the arts organization had on the local community and at the same time providing a tool to judge the organization's management (60/40 split between the grantee's artistic impact and the organization's management regime).

MOTION: To approve the series of weighted evaluation criteria for grants approval and the form used to process grantee requests for funds. (Moved: Susan Sanders/Seconded: Pat Miller) YES: 10/NO: 0/ABSTAIN: 0)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Approve 20 June 2006 Minutes. (Moved: Marla Howell/Seconded: Sylvia Saborio) YES: 10/NO: 0/ABSTAIN: 0)

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT: See item IId above.

V. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Nothing to Report.

VI. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

- a. C. Colton reported that the Guide to Funding the Arts is now available on the Arts Commission Web Site and that there will be two grants writing workshops (21 Sep and 16 October).
- b. J. Barnett provided a report on the status of the LORD Cultural Resources, Planning and Management, Inc., Report. Because of internal personnel issues at the Lord Company, the 31 August Interim Report and final report will be delayed. The company's management will provide an interim report by Aug. 31. The City's Purchasing Agent is investigating the possibility of relief from LORD for them missing the dated contracted for delivery of the final report.

VII. **COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS:**

- a. **Grants Committee:** See Item IId above.
- b. **Cyber Grants:** P. Miller noted that arts organizations are needed to test the "Grants Submission on Line" program. Three organizations, Empowered Women International, First Night Alexandria and the Alexandria Symphony volunteered to participate.
- c. **Web Site:** P. Rudin-North reported that the ACA Web Site will be fully functioning by the end of September and will provide a virtual tour of the local arts community,
- d. **Arts in Education:** D. Roane laid out the premise that for the Arts to engage more with the local youth, a serious outreach to students in concert with teachers and the arts community is essential. He reported that students have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the city providing more avenues for artistic expression. Roane suggested the formation of a youth focus group so students would better have their needs addressed and for placement of a student representative on the Commission.
MOTION: Investigate the creation of a Commissioner position for a student representative. (Moved: Marla Howell/Seconded: George Chadwick) YES: 10/NO: 0/ABSTAIN: 0)

VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. **Alex Award:** B. Anderson announced that there were six application received and two artists were selected (Martha Harwood (Watercolor) and Jennifer Hatfield (Sculpture). Mr. Martin displayed the Alex Award medals that he produced and will have engraved. Additionally, Commissioners discussed that poetry will play a larger part of the Alex Award program. Additionally, the number of tickets to be offered will not exceed 220 for the Durant Center event.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Old Town Festival of the Arts:** J. Barnett announced that Howard Alan Co. has been awarded a two-year contract to produce the next two Arts Festivals.
- b. **Alexandria Choral Society (ACS) Request For Workshop Attendance Monies:** The ACS received \$750 to have member(s) attend a management workshop. The moneys were not used and the ACS requested that these funds be used to attend a workshop this year.
MOTION: Approve the ACS to use the 2005-2006 grants moneys for workshop attendance in the 2006-2007. (Moved: Sylvia Saborio/Seconded Mary Chaffe Brooks) YES: 10/NO: 0/ABSTAIN: 0)
- c. **Commissioner Resignations:** The Commission accepted the resignations of D. Roane and G. Chadwick and agreed to have them both remain as committee-members on their

respective committees in an advisory role.

MOTION: Approve Mssrs. Chadwick and Roane to retain their membership on their respective committees. (Moved: George Chadwick/Betsy Anderson/Seconded: George Chadwick/Sylvia Saborio) YES: 10/NO: 0/ABSTAIN: 0)

X. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.