



## Smith Mountain Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes August 21, 2020

**Present:** Karen DeBord, Kathy Orth, John O'Connell, Marty Bower, Joe Yarbrough, Sherry Brown, Frank Lea, Marita Cheney, Betsy Ashton, Anne Reynolds, Larry Sakayama, Peter Coriasco, Anne Motley, Elaine Lee and Clif Collins

**I. Call to Order and Welcome to Board Members via Zoom** by Karen DeBord, president.

**II. The Agenda** was approved.

**III. Approval of July minutes:** Sherry Brown moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Peter Coriasco. Approved.

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** Marty Bower reported that we have \$20,800.64 as of the end of July. All our insurance has been paid in August, but the payments are not yet appearing in the printed report. She transferred \$700.00 from the Photo Show to sponsorships for the Art Show. Some new memberships are coming in, and Wild Apricot charges about \$1.00 for each transaction. In the past, a savings account was set up for scholarships, which now contains \$1839.00. Since this amount does not cover the scholarships, the account will be closed, and its funds transferred to the general fund. Two scholarships were paid from the General Fund. Peter Coriasco moved the report be accepted. Frank Lea seconded. Approved.

### **V. Old Business:**

**1. The Coves Event:** Karen DeBord said that Mountain Retreat Living, the builders of the Coves, which is a Southern Living inspired community, wants to donate proceeds from the event, if any, to a charity, and they have chosen SMAC. The events will run for four Saturdays in September, with a potential to gross about \$3000 from each event. SMAC has been asked to help promote the event with our Newsletter, Instagram, Facebook and by E-blasting our membership. On October 10-11, they are planning more expensive bands. They are thinking they can gross \$20,000. All ticket sales and contracts will be handled by the Harvester. The September events will be a test for the October event. The Harvester volunteers will do temperature checks, parking and waiting on tables. The organizers have asked SMAC for information on ABC licensing, events insurance and if they can tap our network for large donors. They want us to promote the event via Facebook to all our friends. John O'Connell said he has a problem with SMAC supporting this event, attaching ourselves to this commercial attempt to sell property. Larry Sakayama said we promote affiliates' programs, and we have no control over their contents. Kathy Orth and Joe Yarbrough agreed that any promotions of the Coves events should include, "All proceeds donated to SMAC." Peter Coriasco said our Newsletter to date has no mention of the event. Karen DeBord will contact the organizers and tell them SMAC is not a sponsor, and that proceeds will be donated to SMAC. Sherry Brown requested clarification on what should appear on SMAC's Facebook page. Joe Yarbrough suggested we have a marketing tent at the Cove events to promote SMAC.

**2. Memberships:** Kathy Orth will send a letter to all members saying that no dues are owed and that memberships will be extended through September 30, 2021 at no cost. She requested this information be sent in an E-mail blast and included the Newsletter.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

**Special Events:** Joe Yarbrough said the October 16th coffeehouse with the Nashville Songwriters still is a possibility. If held outside, the weather is not reliable, and an inside coffeehouse can only accept 50 people. We should be marketing now. The annual Christmas Concert with David Wiley is being considered for December 11th or 16<sup>th</sup>, possibly at Resurrection Catholic Church. With social distancing, RCC is limited to 150 people with ten foot spacing between each family. There would be \$1100 in expenses for RCC, the piano tuner and sound, plus the Wiley expense of at least \$2500. We would need to supply ushers and temperature takers. To break even, tickets would cost at least \$25 each. Probably more. David Wiley and Joe Yarbrough will meet to discuss expenses. Marty Bower said that in the past, large crowds were attracted if the Bouknights performed with Wiley, more so than with other performers. Although several Board members said it was too risky to present anything this year, Joe Yarbrough and Karen DeBord suggested we move the Nashville Songwriters to the Spring and decide on the Wiley Concert at our September meeting. The Board approved.

**Art Show:** Marita Cheney reported that everything is ready to go, including the entertainment. There will be hand sanitizers and masks available and limit the number of people in the room. The reception will be held outside. There will be no food. However, considering the Board's reaction, perhaps the Show should be canceled or moved to a later date. Marty Bower is concerned about BMRC's insurance. Sherry Brown said the board needs to make a decision on how to run the show or to cancel it. She suggests we cancel Friday's reception and just have the space open for viewing, require masks and have no musicians. The Board recommended the Committee make the decision.

**Lake Players:** Anne Motley said the group is planning nothing for this year, the they will meet in October to make plans for next year.

**Lake Writers:** Betsy Ashton said the Writers, as a gift to the community, will publish ten works for free doing a specific set of tasks to help people get their books published. All proceeds will go to the authors. The Lake Writers also will help with the cover designs. Guidelines are reported on their Facebook page.

**Photo Club:** John O'Connell reported that the Club will have a guest speaker via Zoom on September 21 and another in October. To date, Club members pay no dues, but this may change because of expenses for speakers and Zoom, which he has been paying personally. He would like to begin collecting dues. Marty Bower suggested it be done like Lakeside Singers does it, i.e., the Singers collect the money and they distribute it. Perhaps SMAC could purchase its own Zoom account. Betsy Ashton agreed. Charging dues is a separate issue.

**JAMs:** John O'Connell said neither his nor Jim Mullen's groups have anything planned.

**Woodturners:** John O'Connell said the group will have a professional woodturner speak via Zoom at its September meeting.

**B Sharps:** The group probably will not be singing at Nursing Homes for now, said John O'Connell.

## **VII. New Business**

1. Betsy Ashton asked Frank Lea if the **Steel Band Concert** is still planned for the YMCA on September 19th. The answer was no. She said she would take it off the website, leaving the Art Show as the only event on the website.

2. Larry Sakayama requested that Kathy Orth send him membership information the E-blast information about membership for and E-blast and asked that Marita Cheney and Sherry Brown send him information about the Art Show to be included in the next **Newsletter**.

3. Karen Debord announced that she and Kathy Orth, on behalf of SMAC, have applied for the **Perry F. Kendig Award for the Arts**, sponsored by Hollins and Roanoke College. We will have letters the support of David Wiley, Melia Garber, the Lakeside Singers director, and Chris Finley from the Chamber of Commerce.

4. Karen DeBord announced that the **Next Meeting** would be held on September 18 via Zoom.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 11:14 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clif Collins, secretary