



## Smith Mountain Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes March 20, 2020

**Present - via Zoom telephone conference:** *Karen DeBord, Betsy Ashton, Larry Helms, John O'Connell, Marty Bowers, Joe Yarbrough, Judy Helms, Larry Helms, Sherry Brown, Frank Lea, Eileen Lee, Jim Mullens, Peter Coriasco, Larry Sakayama, Kathryn Orth, Barb Nocera, Ann Reynolds, Kathleen Riordan (Youth Coordinator) and Clif Collins*

**I. Call to Order and Welcome to Board Members – 9:34 AM** by Karen DeBord, President. Gratitude was expressed to Sherry Brown for arranging this Zoom telephone meeting through the Booker T. Washington National Park.

**II. Acceptance of Agenda:** Frank Lea moved and Marty Bowers seconded that the agenda be accepted. Approved.

**III. Approval of February meeting minutes:** After some corrections were made, Marty Bowers moved and Frank Lea seconded they be accepted. Accepted.

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** Marty Bowers: e-distributed financial reports. \$100 was paid to Liberty High School for the ad in its playbill. Refunds will be sent to the Nashville Songwriters today ticket holders today since the show was cancelled. Marty Bowers moved, seconded by Joe Yarbrough that the Report be accepted. Approved.

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

**1. Website:** Betsy Ashton: She still is working to update our website using the Wild Apricot platform. We have not transitioned to the WA ticketing system yet. PayPal is still in use, and she is working on improving the website. Current postponements include all Lake Writers events, Photo Show and Short Story Workshops. Event posters should be removed.

**2. Bedford Chamber Membership:** Karen DeBord: we are now members. Joe Yarbrough: asked the Bedford Chamber to include SMAC's events on its calendar. The Chamber requested we send the information to be posted directly to them, and they will post it.

### **VI. New Business:**

**1. Special Events:** Joe Yarbrough: two coffeehouse and the Panini Brothers' show have been canceled, Discussion about the pros and cons of postponing versus rescheduling ensued. Joe Yarbrough: plans are being made to have the June coffeehouse featuring Linda Kay Simmons be a dinner theater, an exciting new twist.

**2. PR Requests:** Ann Reynolds: JAMs won the Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival Scholarship for \$1000.00 and will be included in press releases. She also will add that the Panini Brothers and Songwriters will be postponed.

**3. Youth Council:** Karen DeBord welcomed the Youth Council coordinator, Kathleen Riordan, who said that invitations for youth representative were made to five high schools. Three schools responded, nominating eight students, most of whom were interested in the visual arts. The students favored planning programs during the school year. She still is looking for four nominations per school. Karen

DeBord suggested that Kathleen Riordan call the students encouraging them to stay interested. John O'Connell: it should be called the "Youth Arts Advisory Committee," not using the word "Council." We need someone to implement any ideas the youth recommend. Kathleen Riordan: ideas include, having a theme for the year, competitions, student art show, etc. All event suggestions will be brought back to the board. Sherry Brown: the coordinator would be a filter for explaining to the youth what is possible and for bringing their recommendations to the board. Karen DeBord said the youth contact information she has received will be sent to the secretary for recording. John O'Connell: coordinator Kathleen Riordan must be voted on to become a board member. Karen DeBord asked that we vote on it today. Clif Collins: we seem to be making this too complicated. John O'Connell: this is a sensitive area and she must be a board member for our protection. We should talk with principals and instructors explaining to them that SMAC wants to supplement what arts already are available in their schools. He reminded us that whoever is working with school staff and students must have criminal background checks. All agreed. Karen DeBord asked Kathleen Riordan to do so, saying the board would pay for it. Jim Mullens: whomever is working with the school staff must have a criminal background check, paid for by the board. Kathleen Riordan will do that. Karen DeBord will invite Kathleen Riordan to board meetings, and the board will vote on her acceptance for membership in the fall.

## **VII. Other Reports:**

- 1. Lakeside Singers:** Karen DeBord: The Singers have had just one rehearsal. Members have been sent links to and asked to practice musical pieces at home, and director Melia Garber will record vocal parts on the piano to assist vocalist learn their music. Sherry Brown: since many June events already have been canceled, people are thinking the Lakeside Singers' concert likewise will be canceled. Perhaps wait a couple of weeks before cancelling. Jim Mullens agreed. Karen DeBord: the director's total compensation is \$3,700.00. With reduced and online rehearsals, how much should she be paid? After some discussion, Sherry Brown moved the Singers wait two weeks to make the decision, and then negotiate with the director for monthly compensation not to exceed \$750.00 for Melia Garber's time so far. After Betsy Ashton seconded, the motion was approved.
- 2. Lake Writers:** Larry Helms: all activities have been suspended.
- 3. Photo Club:** John O'Connell: all meetings are canceled because the libraries are all closed. Betsy Ashton will post the cancelation on the SMAC website.
- 4. B Sharps:** John O'Connell: all meetings and events are canceled.
- 5. JAMs:** Jim Mullens: beginning last Tuesday, all practices have been suspended and will continue to be until directions from the school system is received. PBS from Richmond filmed students and talks with him, the JAMs executive director and some students. It will be aired in Charlottesville and Richmond in late April. The check from the Wayne C. Henderson Foundation will be presented in June as a concert in Grayson County. Karen DeBord: when Jim Mullens sends her the PBS link, she will send it out to the board.
- 6. Scholarships:** Judy Helms: March 31 is the deadline for scholarship applications. To date, two applications have been received. The deadline may be extended until June 1. Ann Reynolds agrees with the extension. Judy Helms will send out notices.
- 7. Art Show:** Sherry Brown: praised Betsy Ashton for posting the Art Show updates on websites and Marty Bowers for documents needed. Kroger rejected her request for receiving receipt percentages for fund raising since the Art Show was a large enough entity unto itself.

**8. Photo Show:** Barb Nocera: the show has been postponed to perhaps the Fall. To date three entries have been received, and they will be returned. Elaine Lee: sponsorship donations are beginning to come in. They will be asked if they want the checks refunded or kept for the future show. Sherry Brown suggested the Art Show and Photo show might be combined. Barb Nocera said we don't have enough flats, but perhaps the shows could be presented back to back.

**9. Affiliates:** Marty Bowers has the list of Affiliates who have paid for this year, including the Bald Knob Artists, Harmeneers, Steel Drums, Westlake Ringers, and Lake Quilters (new). Frank Lea will send unpaid Affiliates reminders. Joe Yarbrough thanked Betsy Ashton for her patience on ticketing and other issues.

**Other comments:** Peter Coriasco: members should send him an email with information about the events that have been canceled or postponed. Frank Lea: the Steel Drum concert at the YMCA has been moved to September 18. Larry Sakayama: The April 3<sup>rd</sup> SWVA Songwriters Coffeehouse will be rescheduled and current tickets refunded. Ann Reynolds will redo the press releases she now has ready to send.

**Next Meeting – April 17.**

**Adjournment:** It was moved and seconded that the meeting should be adjourned. Approved at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clif Collins, secretary.