



Smith Mountain Arts Council Board Meeting Minutes January 17, 2020

Present: *Karen DeBord, Betsy Ashton, John O'Connell, Marty Bowers, Joe Yarbrough, Judy Helms, Philip Sheridan, Sherry Brown, Caro; Brewer, Frank Lea, Jim Mullens, Anne Motley, Peter Coriasco and Clif Collins*

I. Call to Order and Introductions – 9:31 AM by Karen DeBord, President. Carol Brewer (B-Sharps) and Sherry Brown (Art Show) were welcomed.

II. Acceptance of Agenda: It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

III. Approval of December meeting minutes: **Sherry Brown** moved to accept the minutes as written, Betsy Ashton seconded. Approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Marty Bowers distributed copies of her report, saying that the first page showed what happened in December, the next page the beginning of the fiscal year, October, through December and the last page was the balance sheet through December. The ending balance was \$22,305.71. Joe Yarbrough added that the Christmas Concert showed a positive balance of \$2,029.27. Sherry Brown questioned the Art Show's income. Marty Bowers explained that the figures were for two years. The only Art Show expense this year was the reception. It was moved and seconded that the Report be accepted. Approved.

V. Old Business:

1. **Website:** Betsy Ashton said Wild Apricot has been turned on, and that people wishing to use it must re-register. The process will take about two minutes. It will make direct deposit to the bank, and it is a secure site. Google Analytics will be turned on to assist with tracking. Karen DeBord questioned the existence of a refund policy. Marty Bowers said refunds are given if she is notified beforehand.

2. **Franklin and Bedford County Chambers of Commerce memberships:** Joe Yarbrough reported that there no longer is a Chamber of Commerce in Franklin County/Rocky Mount, but there is one in Bedford County. Karen DeBord will check joining requirements online and forward the information to Marty Bowers via email.

VI. New Business:

1. **Youth Advisory Council:** Kathleen Riordan and Christine Butts will share the tasks of organizing the Council. The Youth Council's objectives include recruiting 16 youth to start meeting in May. Youth members will be recruited from high schools in Franklin County, Liberty, Bedford, Gretna, Staunton River and SML Christina Academy. It was suggested that all schools in the area be included on the Council. Karen DeBord said she would tell Christine Butts to add Gretna. Judy Helms mentioned that students from Liberty and other schools were not eligible for scholarships. Much discussion followed about whether or not to include all schools from the three counties surrounding the Lake. Jim Mullens asked for an explanation of the purpose of the Youth Advisory Council. Karen DeBord explained that SMAC needs to attract more young people to its events, and that the Youth Council will determine what they would add to our offerings, which maybe be different than what we now are doing.

- 2. Volunteer Appreciation Event:** Larry Sacayama is collecting names of volunteers to be considered. Betsy Ashton, Anne Motley and Judy Helms suggested that all volunteers be included, including all singers, writers, players, etc. Karen DeBord said that the Annual Dinner is in October, and that the volunteers could be invited to a wine and cheese party before dinner or as a separate event. They should not be charged for dinner. Marty Bowers warned that that could be costly. John O'Donnell noted that the original idea to recognize our volunteers with a certificate now has become an event. Karen DeBord suggested perhaps a wine and cheese reception with a musician be considered. Much discussion followed. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- 3. Special Events:** Joe Yarbrough said the concession at the Boomer Band event totaled \$202.25. The Wiley/Bouknight Christmas Concert profited \$2029.27. In March, the National Songwriters would perform.
- 4. Newsletter:** Peter Coriasco mentioned that the number of newsletters now being mailed is going up. He requested that information for the March letter now be sent to him.
- 5. Bald Knob Artists:** Phil Sheridan said that Franklin County is now getting involved in planning for the Recognition of Prohibition. Organizations will be setting up displays, and the Bald Knob Artists is considering entering a display.
- 6. Notables:** Carol Brewer reported the group, which now has been together for 24 years, now has 15 members, including several new people. The group needs more scarves for its members. They have \$50.00 in their budget.
- 7. Affiliates:** Frank Lea said the Affiliates now are getting the SMAC Board meeting minutes, and that they will be invited to attend the Board meetings.
- 8. Photo Club:** According to John O'Connell, the Club has been having a professional photographer as a guest speaker. Next month, a workshop in flash photography will be offered.
- 9. B Sharps:** John O'Connell said the group recently sang in Roanoke at Brandon Oaks, and they will sing at Runk and Pratt in February.
- 10. JAMS –North:** John O'Connell is in contact with the Smith Mountain Christian Academy, looking for space to give lessons and perform. Bedford already has a federally funded after school program. He is looking for a manager like Jim Mullens for assistance.
- 11. JAMS:** Jim Mullens said that the first lesson had 42 students, and that there are two youth helpers. On February 11, the SWVA Songwriters did a workshop. On March 10 the PBS show, "Art Scene" will be shown.. They will be filming our students and staff. On March 18, the students will perform at a benefit for the YMCA. ON May 9, they will go to the SWVA Cultural Center in Abingdon (Heartland) and perform with several other JAMs from Southwestern Virginia.
- 12. Lake Players:** Anne Motley said the Lake Players now are reviewing formal plays and getting costs. They will be doing two reading with music between the plays, possibly using the 4-H Center. Two events are being planned for this year.
- 13. Lakeside Singers:** Karen DeBord noted that the first meeting will be a potluck dinner the first Tuesday in March, followed by rehearsals on the following Tuesdays until the concerts the first weekend in June. Last year's director and accompanist will be returning. The group is searching for a drummer.

14. Other: Betsy Ashton asked Marty Bowers for the cost of Affiliates to renew their membership. Marty Bowers said it would be \$25.00. Karen DeBord asked Frank Lea to send the Affiliates a reminder to pay their dues. Phil Sheridan will contact the Friends of the SML State Park to see if they wish to join as an Affiliate. John O'Connell suggested we ask any organization that is arts related. Judy Helms said we previously had this discussion. Peter Coriasco suggested SMAC should spend its large financial balance on showing our volunteers our appreciation. He also said he would rather guests not be required to sign in at events, and he is concerned about our being hacked. Betsy Ashton suggested he send a check.

Betsy Ashton moved, seconded by Carol Brewer, that the meeting be adjourned. Approved at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clif Collins, secretary.