**Board Members Present:**

Claudia Baker

Ann Carey, Vice Chair

Jackie Cornelius

Dave Engdahl

Charlie Joseph, Chair

Tayloe McDonald (late)

**Board Members Absent:**

Anne Boccuzzi (e)

Mac Bracewell (e)

Bill Ferry (e)

Kemal Gasper (e)

JaMario Stills (e)

Penny Thompson (e)

Scott Wooten (e)

**Staff Present:**

Ryan Ali

Tony Allegretti

Patrick Fisher

Christie Holecheck

Ashley Sedghi-Koi

Mason Martin

Amy Palmer

**Guests Present:**

Ari Jolly

Council Member John Crescimbeni

Lawsikia Hodges, Office of General Counsel

**Call to Order**

Charlie Joseph, the Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

Mr. Joseph opened by addressing member absenteeism and Rebecca Ryan-Gonzalez’s resignation from the Board. Because of a lack of quorum, Mr. Joseph stated that the Board would defer on any voting.

Mr. Joseph introduced Council Member Crescimbeni and Lawsikia Hodges from the Office of General Counsel. He then gave the floor to CM Crescimbeni who took a moment to elaborate on his involvement with the Cultural Council and Art in Public Places.

**Approval of Minutes**

David Engdahl made a motion to approve the minutes. Jackie Cornelius seconded the motion. A quorum was not present so the Board could not vote to approve the minutes.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Tony Allegretti provided his Executive Directors report. He reiterated Mr. Joseph’s thanks to CM Crescimbeni for his efforts to advocate for, and work with, the Cultural Council.

Mr. Allegretti revisited the Cultural Council’s commitment to cultural equity. He stated that the Cultural Service Interns were the only group within the Mayor’s Summer Jobs program to graduate with 100% internship completion. Mr. Allegretti shared some of the data related to the internship program, including letters of recommendation from participating cultural organizations and how the exposure positively impacted the students.

Mr. Allegretti stated that Lift Every Student had been fully funded and that the final four artists have been selected. Nine artists in total received valuable training from the Kennedy Center as part of the application process.

Mr. Allegretti spoke of the PNC Arts Alive grant and thanked PNC for their investment in Jacksonville.

Mr. Allegretti indicated that efforts related to the Cultural Council’s cultural equity commitment has proven successful and is providing results much faster than initially anticipated.

Mr. Allegretti spoke on the current dialog surrounding Confederate memorials. Art in Public Places is not weighing in on the ethics behind the memorials, but is prepared to comment on the condition of the pieces in the City’s collection. Mr. Allegretti stated that APP is complying with Council President Anna Brosche’s request to inventory all Confederate memorials.

Mr. Allegretti outlined the agenda for State of the Arts 2017. He encouraged Board members to purchase tickets to the event.

Mr. Joseph thanked Mr. Allegretti for his report. He then opened the floor to questions. Ms. Baker had several questions, which were all addressed. Ms. Baker then shared with the Board that Council President Brosche’s statement regarding Confederate memorials was published in a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal.

**Committee Reports**

***Cultural Service Grants***

Mr. Allegretti reported on the Cultural Service Grant Program and spoke to the appeals process. The Office of General Counsel provided their recommendations on this process in advance of the 2017-2018 hearings.

Mr. Allegretti informed the Board that the CSG Committee is currently conducting site visits for eligable organizations that applied for funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. He then identified the committee members and scheduled hearing dates.

Mr. Allegretti commended the work of Committee members and their commitment to the program. The Committee and staff have received feedback from participating organizations that indicates that changes made to the grants process have yielded positive results.

Ms. Baker requested clarity about the process. Lawsikia Hodges provided additional information about the process, which addressed Ms. Baker’s questions.

Lastly, Mr. Allegretti addressed a change to the bylaws, which replaces the term Ex Officio with term Liaison.

***Development***

Mr. Allegretti stated that State of the Arts has progressed from a luncheon to a full day of programming. He also reminded the Board that they are able to pay their dues online through the Board Resource Page.

***Art in Public Places***

Christie Holechek addressed the current projects slated to occur through the Art in Public Places Program. She spoke of staff roles and mentioned some of the successes of working with project stakeholders to fully address the needs of a project.

Ms. Holechek also discussed upcoming neighborhood projects. Committee members have shown a high level of engagement with these projects. She also stated what City Council Members the Committee will be working with on these projects.

David Engdahl then provided a report on the Haskell Sculpture Initiative, a privately funded public art initiative.

***Finance***

Cedric Lewis provided a report on financial activities and the organization’s financial position year to date. The organization’s revenues have exceeded budget predictions while the expenses are under budget. Mr. Lewis also stated that the Finance Committee has requested that staff provide the Board with a financial forecast as the end of the fiscal year nears.

Tayloe McDonald asked that the total costs of attending the Americans for the Arts Annual Conference be shared with the Board. She also asked why the grant administration was operating over budget. Mr. Allegretti and Mr. Lewis addressed Ms. McDonald’s questions. The grant administration was operating over budget as a result of the appeals process that occurred during the 2016-2017 hearings.

Ms. McDonald requested that June and July’s numbers be shared with the Board. Mr. Lewis outlined some of the challenges with financial reporting, including the complexities related to timing of Finance Committee meetings and when finances are posted. These complexities have prevented up to date reporting during Board meetings.

Lastly, Mr. Lewis indicated that if a quorum is met then the Board will need to vote on an issue related to the Finance Committee. Ms. Hodges then spoke on the topic of quorum. Upon review, the language in the Bylaws is restrictive because the Bylaws outline a specific number that must be present to have quorum.

Council Member Crescimbeni asked Mr. Lewis a question related to the finance report. The question pertained to employee benefits. The number in question specifically represents unused vacation times. Mr. Lewis addressed the Council Member’s questions.

Mr. Joseph thanked Mr. Lewis for the recent Finance 101 workshop, which was open to all Board members.

***Governance***

Ann Carey addressed the recruitment of new Board members. The Board needs to fill three Board vacancies moving into the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Eight candidates had been interviewed in total. The Committee placed a special focus on a strong financial background and previous experience serving on the board of a non-profit organization. Additional criteria included diversity, a passion for the arts, and a flexible schedule. The Committee narrowed the list of candidates to five, and will present those candidates to the Board at the next meeting. It is desired to have new Board members go through orientation prior to the Board retreat.

***Strategic Task Force***

Mr. Engdahl outlined the collective efforts of the Strategic Task Force. The strategic plan will be presented to the Board during the annual meeting in October. Once the Board approves the strategic plan, it will become the responsibility of staff to develop an implementation plan that supports the strategic plan.

**New Business**

**Board Retreat**

Mr. Joseph proposed that the Board convene for its annual retreat on Friday, September 29. The timeframe for the retreat would be 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Ms. Baker felt the Board should take a more mindful approach when selecting dates, due to the 29th being a day before a major Jewish holiday. Mr. Joseph acknowledged Ms. Baker’s concerns and apologized for the oversight. Ms. Baker expressed that a more sensitive approach is necessary.

**Board Terms**

Ari Jolly has played a very active role in the revision of the organization’s Bylaws. Ms. Jolly addressed the topic of Board member terms, specifically original year elected, current term expiration dates, and re-election years. Ms. Jolly also reminded the Board that non-Mayoral Board members are extended a one-year probationary term.

Mr. Joseph asked that the document provided by Ms. Jolly be distributed to the Board. There was a question whether dates on Ms. Jolly’s sheet reflect calendar year or fiscal year. Ms. Hodges indicated that the terms for Mayoral appointees are outlined in the ordinance resolution. Ms. McDonald also suggested that these dates be confirmed by reviewing past minutes.

**Old Business**

Jackie Cornelius shared with the Board the ribbon cutting ceremony for the sculpture garden at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. The date for that event is September 14, 2017 at 5:30 PM. Mr. Joseph requested that staff distribute that information to the Board.

**Executive Session**

Ms. McDonald requested an Executive Session with CM Crescimbeni to hear his concerns and discuss how the Board and staff can address any issues he feels are inhibiting the Cultural Council’s service to the community.

CM Crescimbeni spoke to his fiduciary responsibilities to tax payers to make certain that city funded programs operate at their optimal levels. CM Crescimbeni outlined some requests that he previously made to Mr. Allegretti and Ms. Holecheck in July, which were not fulfilled. CM Crescimbeni indicated that he is frustrated from both the perspective of a Council Member and a private citizen because he feels the organization is under-performing.

**Closing**

**UPON MOTION** duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.