



**Board of Directors Emergency Meeting
Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville**

August 24, 2018, 11:30 a.m.

300 Water St., Jacksonville FL 32202

Shircliff Lounge

Board Members Present:

Ann Carey, Chair
Charlie Joseph
Dave Engdahl
Janet Walker Ford
Kate Rowe
Pamela Smith
JaMario Stills
Bill Ferry
Kemal Gasper

Staff Present:

Tony Allegretti
Cedric Lewis
Amy Palmer
Patrick Fisher

Call to Order

Because of the meeting room change, Ms. Ann Carey, board chair gave additional time for the public to arrive, calling the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. She also announced that a staff member was stationed in the previously announced location (Davis Gallery) to direct the public to the Shircliff Lounge. A quorum was present.

Cure Meeting

Ms. Carey explained the reason for the meeting is to “cure” the meeting held on August 18, 2018 which, upon review, did not meet minimum requirements under Sunshine for notice of a public meeting. The original meeting, using minutes as a guide, will be re-enacted. Minutes of the August 18, 2018 meeting will remain of public record, but will not be approved.



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Ms. Carey also shared that she and staff have been working with both Ms. Lawsikia Hodges of the Office of General Council and Ms. Kirby Oberdorfer of the Office of Ethics and Compliance to understand best practices and staff are updating the Cultural Council's standard operating procedures to reflect the same.

Re-enactment

Ms. Carey stated that the nature of the allegations of mismanagement of tax payer dollars in the recent news media constituted an emergency meeting of the board.

Ms. Carey notified the board that C.M. Crescimbeni, just prior to the emergency meeting, had indicated a concern that adequate public notice had not been given. Immediate Past Chair Charlie Joseph then obtained written communication from Lawsikia Hodges of the City of Jacksonville's Office of General Counsel that "... assuming your notice was done correctly (posting, time, place, etc.) at least 24 hours from your meeting today, I believe you have met the minimum bar in meeting the statutory notice requirements in what your board believes is an urgent matter." Mr. Joseph stated that Ms. Hodges had also conferred with Ms. Kirby Oberdorfer in the City's Ethics Office, who agreed. As stated earlier, upon further review, it was determined that the posting of the public notice did not meet the minimum requirements.

Ms. Carey reviewed the agenda: 1) bring the board up to speed on events leading up to and after recent media coverage; 2) review city regulatory oversight of CCGJ spend/reporting of CSG city funds; and 3) determine next steps, if any, to be taken.

Discussion



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Ms. Carey and Mr. Tony Allegretti, Executive Director, provided an overview of events, starting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 with Councilman John Crescembeni's request for the Arts Awards P&L, the City Council Finance Committee meeting of August 16, 2018 where Councilman Jim Love recommended surplus funding be allocated to CSG, Tony's subsequent interview by Action News Jax regarding the Arts Awards, the meeting of the Cultural Council Board directly following the council finance meeting, which Councilman Crescembeni attended, and concluding with the Action Jax News story at 6pm on Thursday, August 16, 2018 with the allegations of mismanagement of taxpayer dollars. Ms. Carey also noted her attempts to meet with Councilman Crescembeni in person on Friday, August 16, 2018; a meeting in his office was confirmed for Monday, August 20, 2018.

Mr. Cedric Lewis, Finance Director, described the process by which the Cultural Council makes application for city funds, how the funds are budgeted, and the regulatory reporting and monitoring processes that ensure compliance with the terms of the Cultural Council's annual contracts with the city, showing that the Arts Awards fundraiser did not involve any city funds. It was noted that although the agency did not achieve its fundraising goal, the event still realized a profit. In addition, Mr. Lewis noted that city funds may not be used for capital improvements or reserve funds and that all funds must be spent. To demonstrate scrutiny by the PSG office, he also shared how he was once asked by PSG to amend a financial report by \$.01, to which he complied.

The question was raised whether privately raised funds are reported to the city; Mr. Lewis answered funding sources are identified by type – state, private funds, grants – and amount as part of the application process. Mr. Lewis also shared that, as a 501 (c)(3), an annual audit is performed by an independent CPA and the report is shared with PSG as well as the city council auditor.



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Ms. Carey informed the board that Mr. Allegretti had received a Channel 12 interview request during the August 18, 2018 emergency meeting; the board crafted a message but the Channel 12 interview did not take place and the message was not shared. Ms. Carey indicated that all future requests from the media be forwarded to her. In addition, Ms. Jannet Walker-Ford agreed to draft a document of talking points for the board to be used for future public response, if needed. Mr. Joseph reported that there was very little in social media over the past week.

Mr. Joseph asked about Councilman Crescembeni's attendance at Cultural Council board meetings; Ms. Carey reported the councilman had missed three board meetings since April, 2018 but was in attendance at the August 16, 2018 regular meeting.

Ms. Carey shared that she had a good meeting with Councilman Crescimbeni on Monday, August 20, 2018, "hashing" out many issues and read from an email where the councilman stated he appreciates Ms. Carey's "vision of where the CCGJ should be", closing with "both our perspectives and goals have many things in common".

Discussion occurred about the importance of maintaining a good and constructive relationship with Councilman Crescimbeni as well as the public and tactics to keep both better informed, including regular briefings with the councilman, board member meetings with council members, and consistent messaging.

Public Comment

An opportunity was provided for public comment.



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KT Boling, Children's Chorus: Ms. Boling raised the question around the role of the city council liaison to be "more supporting" and "less hurting".

Cynetta Baker, CAP: How does PSG administer their grants today? Ms. Carey responded that they use existing staff and the process is quite different.

Patrick Fisher, Cultural Council: Expressed that the councilman has brought up concerns over the past year in multiple forums with the agency and that we have not listened to his concerns, regarding advocacy, x, y, z.

Chip Southworth, Artist: Communication to the stakeholders has not been good for the past year.

Announcements

- The board agreed to meet monthly for the next six months as the agency transitions to an interim and permanent Executive Director.
- The Transition Team is meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 to discuss hiring of an interim director.
- Patrick Fisher has accepted a position as Executive Director with the Erie Arts Council; his last day is Thursday, September 13, 2018.
- A copy of the Times-Union editorial of August 21, 2018 was provided to the board.
- State of the Arts is September 13, 2018; sponsorships are still available for the board to sell.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.