

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting
Thursday, June 30, 2011
4:00 PM
RISCA Offices
Providence RI

Council Members Present: Jean Rondeau, Chairman; Beverly Blais, Vice Chairman; Regina Partridge, David Wax, Francis Parra, Dana Neugent, James Riley, Carrie Zaslow, Maureen Moakley.

Council Members Unable to Attend: Carolyn Peck, Ann Clanton, Andrea Valentini, Mary K. Talbot, Nancy Chapman, Bill Brackett, Ray Rickman, Katherine Quinn, Deming Sherman, Alison Vareika.

Staff Members Present: Randall Rosenbaum, Executive Director; Steven Feinberg, Executive Director Film & Television; Cristina DiChiera, Director Individual Artists; Elizabeth Keithline, Project Grants for Organizations/ Public Art Program; and Elena Calderón Patiño, Program Director Community Arts; Sherilyn Brown, Program Director Arts in Education.

Public: Michael Nugent, Policy Analyst House of Representatives.

Secretary Jean Rondeau called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM, in the absence of Chairman Bill Brackett and Vice Chair Carrie Zaslow (who arrived later in the meeting). Mr. Rondeau welcomed the new members of the Council to the meeting.

A motion was made to amend the order of the agenda to start with the Nominating Committee report, to accommodate the schedule of the Committee chair.

(Motion Dana Neugent; seconded by Regina Partridge, approved unanimously)

Report from the Nominating Committee:

David Wax, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on the situation facing this year's nomination of officers. Most of the members of the Council were subject to being replaced, with a few eligible for reappointment. The only Council member not up for replacement was Jean Rondeau, whose first term ends in March 2012.

The committee recommended the following slate of officers for FY2012: Jean Rondeau, Chairman; Beverly Blais, Vice Chairman; Dana Neugent, Secretary.

A motion was made to accept the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee
(Motion: James Riley; Seconded by Regina Partridge, approved unanimously)

Chairman Jean Rondeau thanked the board members moving off the Council and once again welcomed the new board members. He asked each member of the Council and staff to introduce themselves to the group.

Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2011 Council meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

(Motion: James Riley; seconded by Regina Partridge, approved unanimously)

Executive Director's Report

Given the number of new members in attendance, Mr. Rosenbaum asked each staff member to briefly introduce themselves and describe their programs and work with RISCA.

Carrie Zaslow, Council member since 2001, took the opportunity to thank the Council and staff for a wonderful experience. She is a working artist and came to Rhode Island to go to graduate school at RISD. Carrie reminded the Council that art is a part of everything we do. In Rhode Island it is an asset that is untapped and unrecognized – and the challenge for the Council is helping to make people realize how essential the arts are to everything we do in this state – from the Knowledge District to the emphasis on design. She encouraged everyone to become a member of the RI Citizens for the Arts, our statewide arts advocacy organization.

Old Business:

2011 Legislative Session: Mr. Rosenbaum reported that no significant pieces of legislation affecting the arts or arts community, beyond the budget, were introduced during the 2011 legislative session. This is different from 2010, when legislation proposing the change or elimination of the public art law was introduced,. Proposals to expand arts districts in Tiverton and Pawtucket were considered, but did not pass both houses of the General Assembly.

FY2012 Budget: Governor Chaffee's proposal was to cut \$100,000 from RISCA's discretionary grant funds as well as the elimination of the Motion Picture Tax Credit; both were restored by the General Assembly. The proposal to extend sales tax to include cultural activities and arts instruction was also rejected by the General Assembly.

The budget presented by Mr. Rosenbaum included \$100,000 more in discretionary grant funds from the draft budget presented to the Council at the May Council meeting.

A motion was made to approve the FY2012 budget

(Motion: James Riley; Seconded by Beverly Blais, approved unanimously)

Approval of Grants:

Chairman Rondeau began with a brief explanation of the process each grant application goes through, describing the review from panels of arts professionals, not RISCA staff. The Chairman extended an invitation to all Council members to attend/observe panel meetings during the fall application cycle.

General Operating Support:

The following individuals declared a conflict of interest with the following applicants: Frances Parra, ECAS Theatre, International Charter School; Jean Rondeau, Stadium Theatre, Rise on Broadway; Dana Neugent and Beverly Blais, URI.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the General Operating Support panel.

(Motion: James Riley; seconded by Beverly Blais, all members approved the recommendations unanimously with the exception of Maureen Moakley, who abstained from voting given the lack of time to review the recommendations)

Project Grants Individuals:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Projects Grants Individuals panel.

(Motion: Beverly Blais; seconded by James Riley, all members approved the recommendations unanimously with the exception of Maureen Moakley, who abstained from voting given the lack of time to review the recommendations)

Project Grants Organizations:

Conflict of Interests???

The Council reviewed the recommendations from the PGO panel. They also reviewed an amendment from staff to award an additional \$15,000 in grants to community based festivals and projects that were not supported prior to the restoration of funding by the General Assembly.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations for funding to Project Grants Organizations as amended

(Motion: James Riley; seconded by Beverly Blais, all members approved the recommendations unanimously with the exception of Maureen Moakley, who abstained from voting given the lack of time to review the recommendations)

Project Grants Education:

Frances Parra declared a conflict of interest with the International Charter School of Pawtucket.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Projects Grants Education panel

(Motion: Regina Partridge, seconded by James Riley, all members approved the recommendations unanimously with the exception of Maureen Moakley, who abstained from voting given the lack of time to review the recommendations)

Fellowships:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Fellowships panel

(Motion: James Riley; seconded by Beverly Blais, all members approved the recommendations unanimously with the exception of Maureen Moakley, who abstained from voting given the lack of time to review the recommendations)

Folk Arts Fellowships:

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Folk Arts Fellowships panel

(Motion: Beverly Blais, seconded by Regina Partridge, all members approved the recommendations unanimously with the exception of Maureen Moakley, who abstained from voting given the lack of time to review the recommendations)

PAD Grants

No conflicts of interest were declared on this set of applications.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the PAD Grants panel

(Motion: Beverly Blais; seconded by Regina Partridge, all members approved the recommendations unanimously with the exception of Maureen Moakley, who abstained from voting given the lack of time to review the recommendations)

Chairman Jean Rondeau made sure that all members knew there would be a Council orientation session, hopefully before the next meeting. He would like to engage new members in a discussion about the role they would like to play in the work of the Council.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 PM

(Motion Beverly Blais ; seconded by Regina Partridge , approved unanimously)

