

James Island Arts Committee Meeting
August 2, 2017, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
MINUTES

Present were Meredith, Mary Beth, Inez, Garrett, Catherine, Katherine, Rajeeyah Mujahid, and Danna Ellis. 7:05 meeting called to order. Minutes were read and approved. Meredith P took notes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accounting – Garrett reported that we have about \$1580 on hand. Another \$200 cash just arrived from Emily Abedon via KW; GM wants to get thank-yous out. KW set up the GoFundMe account to accept matching dollars for the grants. We need to raise \$800 for our \$3228 awards; the Abedon family just gave us \$200. GM said we must meet soon to itemize a request of JI Pride.

Underwriting - KW was notified that SC Humanities Council and SouthArts awarded us \$1500 and 728, respectively, for Poetry at McLeod. KW will now write to Delta for Marilyn's air fare and Circular to cover 200 admissions to McLeod.

Time to write grants to banks also. Grants.gov Planning Grant due 9/11, which funds planning and organization over a three-year period, and three-year grants for executing plans are available after that. KW will ask via email to meet ASAP on this. KW said Poetry Society just lost an expert member and we need to do everything possible to ensure the future of the arts and culture committee's work.

MB thanked Publix and HT, suggests we start putting their logos on our programs. Publix turned down McLeod altogether.

501(c)3 – Susannah has acquired an EIN for JIarts and the DUNS number is pending. She needs \$275 to file, and KW said to ask Ashley how to do it.

Auction – Teacher Liaison Laura de la Maza is looking for a new chief, on whose team she would like to continue. Susanne declined, and Laura will ask Kit Loney. KW found and bought Prismacolor watercolor pencils at 50% off retail online.

McLeod - KW said the June 18th reading was attended by about 60, went very smoothly, and team members executed their jobs beautifully. MB and Inez will set up hospitality for Gary Jackson Sunday 9/8/17. KW will set up the workshop, co-ordinate publicity with Erin and CCPRC, and find a Teacher Liaison to set up dates with our schools. Meredith will schedule and appear on live media. KW said that though \$4000 sounds like a lot of money, Marilyn Nelson alone commands far more than that for a single event, and that grantors have monetary support for performers as a criterion.

Catherine reported on her meeting with KW to develop the fiber art show. Called McLeod Plantation Through The Eye of a Needle, it will be an invitational for artists to create new work responding to MPHS. She has asked Shawn about convening there to decide the soonest possible date. KW will write a City of Charleston grant for that. We have screens for mounting the show, which will necessitate a size limit for work.

Communications – MP communicated with an artist to set up an interview, but it’s taken a summer break. Susannah will help Katherine get a newsletter layout together. Garrett says we need to revamp our mission statement. Catherine repeated the idea of a Youtube channel from previous meetings, and accepted responsibility for that; SS said Annie Purvis would be able to do it, perhaps as a project with an honors student. CL mentioned that we could design a badge for James Island scouts to earn, helping us. Meredith said she would run our Instagram account for us. KW will find out the logon for that.

Location – Discussion of potential jiArts facilities included the old library, Gresham Meget, James Island Middle School (to be decommissioned in three years) and the white house at Fort Johnson. More ideas are welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

African Dance - Rajeeyah Mujahid created RBM Nubian Drum and Dance and, having attended our meeting, will return in a month with ideas about how RBM and JIarts can help each other. She has 44 years experience including performance at McLeod. It was suggested that Engaging Creative Minds’s STEAM program might be a resource for her classroom teaching. James Island Festival should be revived.

Danna Ellis talked to the Lowcountry Senior Center Services head Elizabeth Barnett about the kinds of activities JIarts might host there and at McLeod. She said that LCSC members are seeking better things to do. She proposed a roots music series at either venue, which people would buy tickets for, and shared a flyer about Gary “Shrimp City Slim” Erwin’s work. Concern was expressed about CCPRC requiring admission fees. KW mentioned having thought about a “real jazz” series for LCSC that a grant could be used for, matched by ticket sales. There will be more discussion about cooperating with LCSC, a Roper Saint Francis project.

In a meeting between KW and Kirk Pfeiffer, Charleston Performing Arts Center, on Folly Road across from True Value, offered to partner in any grants we want to write, and shared a list of opportunities. He also offered his space to co-host fundraising events for JIarts and as a gallery for artists’ sales. He was very excited about having open mic poetry and music at this club-like venue, with tables, stage, and full bar.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05.