



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2024 Google Meet

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council, make recommendations to the Council, and shall perform other duties as specified...

Present: Carole Alexander, John Schratwieser, Albita Rivera, Chris Sloan, Laura Weiss, Shelley Morhaim, Lily Bengfort, Marva Jo Camp, David Fakunle Staff Present: Steven Skerritt-Davis, Derrick Quevedo, Tammy Oppel, Chad Buterbaugh, Kirk Amaral Snow, Cathy Teixeira

Chris called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m. followed by guiding documents.

Shelley moved to approve February 27, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes, and Carole seconded. All approved. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved.

Strategic Planning Survey:

- Shelley wanted to know the number of goals, and found it hard to keep track.
- Steven stated there are 5 goals, and objectives will fall under each goal
- Chris thanked Steven for gathering the information and creating the survey.

John and Lily will end their Council service on Jun 30, 2024 . Shelley asked if there's anything that requires the attention of current serving members. Steven suggested reviewing the By-Laws, and will follow up with John and Lily after the June meeting.

Legislative Update - Line Items

- John asked if \$2.5 million is outside the normal process. Steven responded, "yes".
- John requested the amount of general operating expenses for FY24 to see what FY25 amounts look like. John stated there's been years of conversation about what to do about it, and that we need to take a



stand against the special treatments and rights against what MSAC stands for.

- Chris asked to confirm that we passed a proposal.
- Steven stated the GFO policy is now that line items will be considered non-allowable income for the purposes of calculating GFO grants.
- John stated we passed the weakest possible option, and it's not the way for us to move forward.
- Chris asked if we should make a statement.
- John feels statements are useless, and suggests a reduction in grant equal to line items though he understands the administration approving would be unlikely.
- Albita stated that she understood that the grants are in addition to the money they receive through MSAC grants, but asked if the funds are passing through MSAC. Steven responded, "yes" that MSAC is processing the grants and all but the BSO funds are added to MSAC's budget.
- Albita wants to know the rationale, as it looks like double dipping. John agreed.
- John stated there will be backlash as soon as the rest of the state realizes an additional \$2.5m has been distributed secretly instead of through our process.
- Chris recommended revisiting this issue.
- Albita's concern is that we may be funneling the additional money.
- Steven clarified the changes to the process and stated that having all FY25 line items in budget language is movement toward transparency.
- Steven plans to include this information in the June meeting materials, and add it in the Executive Committee Report.

Council Updates - Governance Committee

- Chris expressed concern with the low number of committee members, and expressed hope in that changing with new councilors.

New Business

- Chris stated a councilor raised issues about being slighted with the unanimous vote by the nominating committee. Steven suggested having that councilor speak directly with the nominating committee.
- Lily stated there's not a requirement for having a unanimous vote; just a majority vote. She would be happy to talk with whoever would like to speak with the nominating committee.

John motioned to adjourn the meeting, and David seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:08 pm.