



Maryland State Arts Council Governance Committee

MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2024
Google Meet

The Governance Committee shall enhance the engagement and participation of Council members, and to ensure the effective operation of the lay leadership structure.

In attendance: Chris Sloan, Joel Snyder, David Fakunle, Ruby Lopez-Harper, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Derrick Quevedo

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. following guiding documents.

Chris made a motion to approve the February 14, 2023 Governance Council minutes. David seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

Review of Committee History/Purpose

Discussion

- Joel - Questioned the role of governance committee in bylaws review
 - Steven: Executive committee felt there needed to be committed engagement, inspire engagement by councilors at large.
- Joel - Questioned conflict provision about grants and executive committee
 - Steven: Explained the provision and the current practice.
- Joel - Are governance committees like ours part of other SAAs?
 - Steven - Can ask NASAA
- Chris - Noted common practice and importance of governance committees in nonprofits, noted infrequency of meetings for reasons; suggested it could help provide a pipeline for candidates to come into council
 - Steven - noted the role of council primarily as oversight and elevating visibility of council; actual duties of councilors different from nonprofit boards



- Ruby - Suggested committee name change (Board Development) of committee and questioned the actual influence of Councilors on appointment process

Update on Engagement Tools

Discussion

- **Joel** - Our governance committee just says engage commitment, which is what council does at large; appreciates **Steven** adding into this "encouraging board members"
- **Chris** - voiced support for committee including identifying new candidates. Suggested process be developed and suggested the committee also ensure diversity and experience with community leadership and so on, in the interest of creating a "pipeline" of candidates to make sure there's a well rounded board. Chris questioned if that conflicts with understanding of anyone here?
- **Joel** - Questioned current process
- **Ruby** - Voiced concern about setting unrealistic expectations if councilors were actively recruiting.
 - **Steven** described process and acknowledged awkwardness in conversations with unsuccessful candidates
- **Chris** - Questioned number of candidates in past; thinks committee participation could be helpful
 - **Steven**: would be happy to run a proposal by department's assistant attorney general.
- **Chris** - Suggested to continue to do a councilor evaluation as a way for governance committee to know what's going on.
- **Ruby** - Good with understanding how people are feeling supportive, but only if it's designed well. Questioned if someone isn't doing a good job what recourse do we have to do anything? What's needed to make sure people are succeeding, receiving the support they need? There needs to be an understanding of roles, training, etc., as people in exit interviews explained they struggled with knowing their roles.
- **Chris** - suggested that the role of the committee should be to keep an eye out for problems.
 - **Steven** - The spirit of **Jackie's** intentions with tracking was to provide support; "how do we make this a valuable experience for the councilors?" The only consequence, per statute, is if



councilor doesn't attend the meeting minimum, they can be removed.

- **David** - Grateful for the guidance of **Shelley**. The engagement tool can be "systematized" to help new councilors with transitioning into their role and how to make it impactful. It can also establish opportunities for new councilors to learn.
- **Joel** - Suggested we call committee "council development?"
- **Steven** mentioned mentorship program)
- **Ruby** - As opposed to **David** and **Joel's** relationship with mentorship, Ruby was not familiar with hers which added another dimension to it.
- **David** - Onus is on senior to reach out to junior; we can continue to systematize this so that it can maintain itself.
- **Chris** - Suggested to maintain governance committee, during earliest convenience meet and go over what role they can play that would be helpful in identifying new councilor candidates, evaluation process, etc.
- **Joel** - Informal sense of committee name?
 - **Steven** - It is a by-laws change, as it might be premature for tomorrow's meeting. Suggested another meeting before annual meeting in June or wait until fall.
- **Chris** - Do we want to do it with this group or with new people or with an "experienced" group? Endorses meeting before June.
- (**Ruby** leaves at 12:34pm but is "on board"; **David** agrees; **Joel** agrees and with more people)

New Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:35 p.m.