

Indiana Arts Commission
Executive Committee
IAC Conference Room
Indianapolis, Indiana
March 5, 2008 9:00 a.m.

Dick Stifel, Chair

Minutes

Members Present: None

Members via Teleconference: Dick Stifel, Sandra Clark, Jeanne Mirro, Ronald Stratten,

Members Absent: None

IAC Staff Present: Lewis Ricci, Dennis Hardin, Sarah Heying

I. Welcome and Introductions.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stifel at 10:00 a.m. All attendees introduced themselves.

2. Consent Agenda.

Ms. Clark moved to approve the consent agenda and Ms. Mirro seconded. The motion passed.

3. New Commissioner Orientation.

Mr. Ricci announced the names of the three new IAC commissioners. They are Earl Williams of Muncie, Sheri Trine of Angola and Pam Hicks of Greenwood. He gave brief background information on each. Dennis Hardin has sent contact sheets to each of them. He also stated that Ms. Trine will be unable to attend the next quarterly business meeting in Lafayette because she will be out of the country. Each new commissioner will be given an orientation session, attended by Mr. Ricci and one of the commission officers. Tentatively these will be: Mr. Stifel and Mr. Ricci will meet with Mr. Williams; Mr. Ricci and Ms. Mirro will meet with Ms. Trine; Mr. Ricci and Mr. Stratten will meet with Ms. Hicks.

4. Commissioner Vacancies, Nomination Process, the Governor's office and Next Steps

Mr. Stifel stated that they have received information regarding a possible fourth new commissioner, Susie Rentschler, for the Columbus vacancy. Mr. Ricci will communicate with other contacts in the Columbus area to obtain further information about her willingness to serve. Mr. Stratten asked for insight into the non-reappointment of Cindy Frey as commissioner. Mr. Ricci clarified that the Governor had decided to appoint his own choice of commissioner for the position rather than re-appoint Ms. Frey. Ms Clark asked about the status of other IAC recommendations. Mr. Ricci answered that one of the nominees could not serve due to a conflicting position on another state board, and that other recommendations were not considered by the Governor. Mr. Stratten asked if the commission should consider party affiliations when suggesting future nominees. Mr. Stifel acknowledged that while party affiliation may play a role, he does not think it plays a major role. Mr. Ricci stated that he has spoken to Mr. Vanator of the Governor's office regarding this matter. Mr. Ricci believes that the commission should continue to be proactive and forward names to the Governor's office without regard to political affiliation. Mr. Stifel said that he is encouraged by the fact that there is an open line of communication with Mr. Vanator. Mr. Hopper suggested that the commission could ask for a list of individuals being considered by the Governor, and then the commission could work with that list to make recommendations. Mr. Ricci stated that he believes Mr. Vanator is giving the commission a chance to review the names from the Governor's office. Mr. Stifel suggested that all members of the commission

should actively seek out persons who would make viable candidates and bring this information to the next quarterly meeting. Mr. Ricci said that he has emphasized to Mr. Vanator the need for diversity on the commission, and that the Governor's most recent selections did not address that need. Mr. Stratten concurred.

5. Items from Standing and Ad Hoc Committees Needing Executive Input and Discussion.

Program Evaluation Committee. Mr. Ricci reviewed the idea from the PEC that the Arts Commission might consider sponsoring Presenter grants, Education grants, and Public Art grants, none of which is currently being funded. One idea is that funding could be channeled through the Regional Arts Partners. Mr. Stifel asked if our Regional Partners have the capacity to take on such a task, and Mr. Ricci replied that it varies from region to region. Mr. Stratten stated that if some of the partners lack the capacity to take on such a task, then he is not sure it would be a good idea to place this responsibility on the partners as a whole. Ms. Clark said that her vision is that this could be a hybrid process involving both centralized controls and regional participation. Mr. Mirro stated that she agrees with Mr. Stratten and Ms. Clark and that she is concerned about the capacity of the regions as a whole to take on such responsibility. Mr. Ricci pointed out that IAC cannot create a granting category that will be handled regionally in some areas and centrally in others. Mr. Hopper asked if the board should consider a pilot project in one of these categories. Mr. Ricci concurred that a pilot project is a good idea.

Cultural Trust. Mr. Ricci stated that the biggest question arising from the Cultural Trust Advisory Board meeting is how much money from the growing trust can be accessed. The State Treasurer is looking into this matter. Mr. Tuchman, chair, is reviewing the legislation to see what is allowable under the law. Mr. Ricci believes that this is also a policy question for the Executive Committee. Mr. Stifel asked if the Cultural Trust committee had specified what the appropriate uses of the funds should be. Mr. Ricci answered that several ideas have been brought forth, including matching grants to the regional partners, and funding of an educational study. Ms. Clark stated that her understanding is that the only prohibited use of the money would be for construction. Mr. Hopper would like to see funds used to support public art throughout the state. Mr. Ricci added that he supports this idea as well, and that the legislature could be approached for matching funds. Mr. Ricci stated that the Trust is currently earning approximately \$60,000 per year in interest. There was discussion of a possible event which could occur in the off-year of the Governor's Arts Awards, focusing on a public art installation. Mr. Ricci added that representative Eric Koch has been vocal in expressing his interest in helping to introduce legislation to address arts education in the state.

Advocacy. Mr. Ricci said that the two major focal points for the next legislative session will be art education and some combination of the cultural districts and public art. He also said that IAC can build on its successes with the Artisan Development Project and the Lincoln Public Art project to further funding requests. Mr. Stifel asked how IAC could best follow up on these successes. Mr. Ricci replied that the commission should form a committee to determine the cultural districts and consider how to include public art. Mr. Ricci then reported that an ad hoc education committee has been formed on the state level and that IAC staff member Susan Britsch is working with the committee. He then stated that all of the IAC standing committees should share their ideas with the Committee on the Future as the major planning committee.

Ad Hoc Funding. Mr. Ricci said that there is a need for a feasibility study to be undertaken regarding the IAC capacity for raising funds, and that he is putting together information on the cost of such a study. Mr. Stifel asked how such a study would be conducted. Mr. Ricci replied that a firm would be engaged which would do the preliminary work of contacting funding institutions to learn of their possible interest and commitment. He recommended that this idea be discussed at the full commission meeting, and that more information on the cost of the study could be presented at the June business meeting. The committee agreed.

6. Public Relations Campaign.

Mr. Ricci stated that there will be a presentation made at the March business meeting concerning the proposed public relations campaign.

7. Staffing Update.

Mr. Ricci reported that there is still one IAC staff vacancy, the Community Development/Accessibility Coordinator position vacated by Monica Peterson, and that finalists are being interviewed. There will be an updated listing of staff contacts presented at the quarterly business meeting.

8. Financials Update.

Mr. Ricci reported that IAC is in good shape financially and is under budget for FY2008 operations. He gave credit to IAC Deputy Director Michelle Anderson for her efforts.

9. September Dates and Location of Quarterly Meeting.

Mr. Ricci stated that the date of the September quarterly meeting has not been finalized but that the date would be announced at the March quarterly meeting. The next meeting will be on June 13th in Fort Wayne.

10. Old Business.

Mr. Stratten asked about the re-nomination of Judy Hess to the commission. Mr. Ricci replied that he does not yet know if the Governor will re-appoint her at the end of her first term. Mr. Stifel reiterated that commission vacancies need to be addressed. Ms. Mirro asked if the Cultural Trust Advisory Board could move forward with confidence in planning the use of funds from the Trust. Mr. Ricci replied that she should report the committee's recommendations to the full commission at the next business meeting.

11. New Business.

Mr. Hardin reported that he has been appointed as Ethics Officer for the commission and that all IAC staff and commissioners will be required to complete on-line ethics training. More information will be provided at the quarterly business meeting. Ms. Mirro remarked that portions of the IAC website are outdated, and Mr. Ricci replied that new staff member April Blevins is hard at work on improving the site.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Hopper moved for adjournment. Ms. Mirro seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.