

CALOP Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 2010
University City City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
6:00 PM

Commission members present: Eric Friedman, James Reeves, Rick Simoncelli, Mae Etta Weston, Gladys Creer, Bob Wilcox, Councilmember L. Michael Glickert.

Commission members absent: Beverly Brandt, Dennis Riggs, Marla Roach, and Mary Williams.

Also present: Genise Lay.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Friedman at 6:00 p.m. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Creer, which was seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 22, 2010 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Creer, which was seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion was approved.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Friedman reported that funds granted for the Elijah Lovejoy Parish Society film project were returned per a letter sent from CALOP. The letter contained documentation provided by CALOP technical advisor Dennis Riggs highlighting technical aspects required by the contract that had not been met. CALOP received full return of the grant funds.

Mr. Friedman also reported that a letter had been received from an attorney representing Jim Tudor, filmmaker for the Mississippi Ironclads project.

Mr. Friedman relayed that there was nothing to report on the Washington University archives project.

Treasurer's Report

The commission reviewed the April 2010 financial report. Mr. Simoncelli pointed out that there were no new expenses and that CALOP had received its 3rd quarter payment from Charter; AT&T has sent revenue which will be recorded on next month's financial report. Mr. Simoncelli also noted that revenue was low in comparison to last year. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Mr. Simoncelli, which was seconded by Ms. Weston. The motion was approved.

Reappointment of CALOP Seats

The commission discussed reappointment of seats for commission members Gladys Creer, James Reeves, and Robert Wilcox. Councilman Glickert pointed out that under the charter, members may serve for two terms; in the event of a resignation, an individual would be appointed to fill the unexpired term. Mr. Friedman had requested an opinion from City Attorney John Mulligan. Mr. Mulligan sent a reply indicating that commission members may serve until successors are appointed. It was also noted that the responsibility of appointment/re-appointment of new members is under the purview of the City Clerk. Commissioners Creer, Reeves and Wilcox acknowledged that they would like to continue serving on the commission. Mr. Friedman noted that the commission would like to see a more proactive approach to re-appointment.

Five-Year Plan

The commission discussed reviewing the five-year plan, in accordance with Municipal Code sections 2.52.020 and 2.52.030. Mr. Friedman asked for volunteers to co-chair the project, review the current five-year plan, and to bring any recommendations/revisions to the commission for review. Mr. Reeves and Mr. Wilcox volunteered to co-chair the project. Mr. Friedman and Ms. Weston will also review the plan to include enhancements suggested in prior years.

Project Status Presentation – St. Louis Brau

Lou Stemmler, Producer, appeared before the commission to give the status on the film project St. Louis Brau. Mr. Stemmler reported that the project had been delayed due to camera maintenance. Mr. Stemmler provided a preview of preliminary footage and also relayed that there were plans to obtain production assistants to help with acquiring records and documentation for the film. Mr. Stemmler informed the commission that the project would not be completed by the June 15, 2010 deadline; he requested that an extension be granted until September 15, 2010.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Simoncelli reported that Flamingo Production plans to complete the film There's No Place Like It by early fall. Mr. Simoncelli asked if it was required for the filmmaker to provide a script as a part of the reporting process or would an outline be sufficient. After discussion, a motion to change the reporting requirement in the contract to an outline as opposed to a script was made by Mr. Simoncelli, which was seconded by Ms. Weston. The motion was approved.

Ms. Creer reported that Sustainable St. Louis was doing well and that there are no concerns that the project deadline will not be met.

Ms. Creer also reported that U. City Sleuths was having a problem with retaining students. Edie Barnard, filmmaker for the project, had requested that time be granted until the end of the school year. Ms. Creer also informed the commission that Ms. Barnard stated that she would continue to work on the project and that if she was not able to meet the deadline that she would talk to the commission or return the grant funds.

Mr. Simoncelli reported that Brent Jaimes, filmmaker for A Different Way of Life, was informed about the June 15, 2010 deadline. Mr. Jaimes had a formatting question to which Mr. Riggs, CALOP's technical advisor had responded. Mr. Simoncelli informed the commission that Mr. Jaimes is set to meet the deadline.

The commission reviewed a report on St. Louis Brick submitted by Ms. Brandt.

Mr. Riggs will be contacted to obtain a status report for the grant project Tennessee Williams.

Ms. Weston relayed that an email from Dennis Riggs was provided on the status of the film Born to Learn. Ms. Weston asked for clarification as to the role of the liaison and the technical advisor once the film is completed. Past month's meeting indicated that both the liaison and technical advisor would review the film, but Ms. Weston had not received the completed film to review. The commission determined that the filmmaker would be required to send one copy each of the completed film to the liaison and technical advisor.

Ms. Weston reported that school liaison Mary Williams was not able to attend the CALOP meeting. Ms. Williams, however, had made a request to meet with her and Mr. Friedman to review the education co-op program.

Mr. Friedman reported on Daniel Byington's response to CALOP's letter concerning the status of Wehrenberg Theatre the First 100 Years. Mr. Byington had indicated that he had moved and would send an address update and that he was willing to refund the grant funds provided to him. Mr. Friedman relayed that no information had been provided to date. A second letter will be sent by certified mail with a return receipt request to Mr. Byington asking for follow-up.

The commission held a discussion about deadline dates and what transpires when deadline dates are not met. Mr. Friedman noted that the matter is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

A motion to extend the deadline date for St. Louis Brau to September 15, 2010 was made by Mr. Wilcox, which was seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion was approved. Ms. Creer will contact representatives for University City school and U. City Sleuths to possibly alleviate the issue of retaining students for the U. City Sleuth project.

VLAA Contract Review

The commission reviewed the VLAA contract proposal submitted by Sue Greenberg. A motion to approve the renewal of VLAA agreement was made by Mr. Wilcox, which was seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion was approved.

Archives

No report.

Recycling Project

Mr. Simoncelli and Ms. Weston reported on the status of the proposed recycling project. Mr. Simoncelli explained that he and Ms. Weston met with Chris Clark of Cinema St. Louis, who felt that the topic of recycling may be too narrow. Mr. Clark suggested that CALOP could engage the youth and students in a competition of shorts submission, however, to attract professionals funding would need to be substantial such as a cash prize. During the meeting with Mr. Clark, the issue of whether CALOP only funds documentaries was brought up. Mr. Friedman noted that CALOP could support fictional films however it would be more difficult to complete than documentaries. Mr. Friedman suggested that Mr. Simoncelli and Ms. Weston consider the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) bill, which he is involved in, as possible recycling subject matter. The PACE bill will allow homeowners to purchase and install renewable energy technologies and deduct it from their taxes.

Internship

The commission discussed possible ways in which CALOP may benefit from utilizing internships to assist CALOP. VLAA has legal interns available to perform legal work. These interns may be able to assist CALOP with contract development, collection work, and assisting with the five-year plan hearing. Sue Greenberg would supervise the legal interns. Mr. Friedman would meet with them as well to provide context.

Digitization

No report.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, June 24, 2010.

Unanticipated

The commission discussed if there would be a fall grant round. A motion to approve grant round applications due on September 15, 2010 with review on September 23, 2010 subject to the workshop schedule with VLAA was made by Mr. Wilcox, which was seconded by Ms. Weston. The motion was approved.

The commission will work to bolster public presence through website/web pages and other marketing strategies.

There being no further business before the commission, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wilcox and seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mae Etta Weston, Secretary

Prepared by Genise Lay