## Friends of Carrollwood Cultural Center

## Board Meeting,

## Aug. 19, 2015

Carrollwood Cultural Center

Present: Nancy Stearns, Bill DeMare, Mary Ann Bardi, Neil Smith, Dan Saxe, Craig Nowicke, Rex Henderson, Evelyn Bless, Alan Preston  
Absent: Brenda Heiss, Sandra Harrington  
Also present: Nancy Kirkpatrick, Ellia Sliwiak, Pete, John Miley

Chair: Nancy Stearns. Minutes: Evelyn Bless. Called to order 12:04 pm.

**Adoption of agenda**. Motion: Alan Preston. 2nd: Neil Smith. Adopted.

**Adoption of consent agenda**. Motion: Dan Saxe. 2nd: Evelyn Bless. Adopted.

**Nomination of new Board member to represent Phase 1, Dr. David Rowland**. Motion: Rex Henderson. 2nd: Dan Saxe. Accepted by all.

**Board attendance at Saturday market**.

* Nancy Stearns encouraged all Board members to make time for a 2-hour shift at market, which is held 2nd Satuday of each month. You learn about the Center and the community; it is also a terrific experience. Goals are to sign up new members for our eblast, give them program/classes information, help with questions. Next market is 9/12. Mary Ann Bardi volunteered.
* **Another event** for Board attendance: Thurs. Aug. 27 6-8 is all-cast party. Board is invited to get to know the people involved with Center’s theatre productions. Aaron Washington, director of All Shook Up and now a staff member for events, will put on a program.

**Events contract with HOAs**. New version of contract has not been finally signed by all HOA Boards although it is already in effect (two events have taken place, we have received payment).

**Finance report**.

* A new accounting firm is doing our bookkeeping and has made great progress in cleaning up the books. We show a 94K profit for the year: however, we received a 31K anonymous grant and 63K from the state grant, which accounts for the profit. Balance sheet is in order. We will have updated, accurate reports soon.
* Fiscal year 2015 starts 10/1. The budget preparation process starts now with drafts circulated next month. Any Board member, staff or volunteer is encouraged to attend Finance meetings, which are the Tuesday before the Board meeting at 11:30 am.
* **Bank change**. Bay Cities has been acquired by a non-local bank, Commercial Bank. Nancy Gordon has resigned and is now with First Citrus Bank. Paul will pursue his relationship with Nancy and investigate possibly moving our account to this bank, which is headquartered in Carrollwood.

**Dellwood Property report**.

* There is money in County’s FY2016 budget for park. Plant must first be decommissioned and cleaned up. Dec. 2015 is approximate date for this to be done; may be later. The process may slip to next fiscal year. Staff recommends 400K for survey and architect to start design. May be voted on by commissioners soon.
* The park will be about 30 acres, after subtracting plant and lake. Comparably sized park is Eureka Park: has 3 full-time employees.
* Tampa currently has two categories of parks: regional and recreational. This part could be a new category, “community park”—would be first of many community parks in the area. The amenities it proposes are something new for Tampa parks.
* The County has expertise in running parks; we have expertise in putting on cultural events that bring the community together. We see there being a role for the Center in the new park, although it is currently undefined. Victor Dockery is new Director of Parks and Recreation. Rick Valdez is the operations manager, with whom we have an ongoing relationship. Kyla is in charge of projects.
* On 9/9, 6:30-8:30, there will be a town hall meeting at the Center hosted by Ken Hagen. Short presentation followed by a video; there will be tables with information. Paul is working with Rick Valdez to set it up.

**Unfinished business.**

* New Tampa Center: Commissioner Crist. Paul will find out more information about this proposed community cultural center, and if there is possibly a role for Center in helping or making it happen.
* Studio: renovations were on hold and now County must fix roof. Hope to resume and finish by end of calendar year.
* New financial / ticketing system for Center: maybe a decision by next month.
* Sept. 13, 5 pm: Benefit concert for Center organized by Craig, Joey Donovan and Lint Rollers. Please come and tell all your friends!
* Request by several Board members that at every major event we have 1) someone on stage to tell audience, “brought to you by the Carrollwood Cultural Center,” “we urge you to become a member” etc. 2) membership table that is close to entrance or ticket office, where it will be easily seen and be accessible. We would like this done before the end of the year.
* Publicity: We are still not doing enough to fill the house for some stellar acts we bring in. Publicity $ needs to be added to the budget for specific acts. Suggestion was made to contract it out: have a publicist come up with publicity plans for selected events.
* New Board member orientation: Evelyn will send to newest Board members, offer help in getting the steps accomplished.

Adjourned 1:25 pm.