**Friends of Carrollwood Cultural Center**

**Annual Board Meeting**

**November 19, 2014**

**Carrollwood Cultural Center**

**Board Members Present**: Nancy Stearns*, President*, Bill DeMare, Sandra Harrington, Evelyn Bless, *Vice President*, Jennifer Fritch, Rex Henderson, Craig Nowicke

**Board Members Absent:** Alan Preston

**Staff Present**: Paul Berg*, Executive Director*, Richard Haerther, *Artistic Director*

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Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public comment: Nancy Manning was disappointed that more was not done to promote the meeting. Rex Henderson commented that due to the fiscal year changing the timing of the annual meeting changed as well. Evelyn Bless also commented that the Executive Director has been extremely busy. Dee Lehner commented that the flag outside the Center is beginning to fray. Paul Berg responded that a new flag had already been ordered. Ellia Sliwiak commented that she and Evelyn have gone out and visited potential sponsors and believes that they have someone that is willing to donate plants for landscaping around the Studio.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:**

**Motion:** by Evelyn Bless

**Second:** Sandra Harrington

**Discussion:** none

**Motion passed:** 7-0

1. **Approval of October Minutes:**

**Motion:** by Bill Demare.

**Second:** Evelyn Bless

**Discussion**: Evelyn Bless mentioned that the board minutes were getting better and better.

  **Motion Passed**: 5-0

1. **Welcoming Statements:**

**Discussion:**

1. **Introduction of Board and Committee Chairs:**

**Discussion:** The individual board members communicated their roles within the board and various committees of the Center on which they serve (e.g. Development, Finance, Governance, Programs Committees).

1. **State of the Center:**

**Discussion:** The Executive Director explained that the organization had decided to change its fiscal year to match Hillsborough County and the state of Florida as they are the largest contributors. For the abbreviated 9 month fiscal year the Center ended in the black with an approximate $19,000 net income. One of the highlights of the year was developing a new mission statement which is, “The mission of the Carrollwood Cultural Center is to create culture through community and create community through culture.”

During 2014 the weekly e**-**blast reached over 5,338 subscribers and over 1,700 “likes” on Facebook. The volunteers contributed 4,083.50 hours which is the equivalent of a full time staff position at $32,392. The Tom Jones Tuition Assistance Program contributed $7,361 in tuition to area children that would otherwise not been able to attend programs at the Center. The Center also undertook and succeeded in a sound campaign which upgraded the equipment.

The Center also welcomed new additions from Nancy Kirkpatrick as our new Art Curator and Josh Hobbs as the new Carrollwood Winds director.

Paul then relayed a story that occurred on Halloween. We hosted a delegation of 12 people from China. Paul had been contacted a few weeks prior from an individual at the University of Berkley in California. It turns out that they were in California to attend a management workshop then were interested in touring a Cultural Center because they are thinking about creating something similar in their providence in China. It was one of the most interesting things that we have had happen since we have opened. They flew from California just to tour the Center and to speak to Paul about the organization. After they left the Center they were eating lunch, looking at the beach then flying back to California. We are now known on an international level!

Looking forward to the coming year the Center will be adding a new education director as Helen Michaelson is retiring at the end of this year. The board has agreed to invest in the Studio. Within the next few months the facility will be getting new flooring, paint and upgraded bathrooms on the inside. One the outside the building will be power washed and painted in a color scheme that more closely resembles the Center to create a sense of continuity between the two structures. As of November 19 the entrance to the Center has been improved through new landscaping. Thanks to Chris Hughes a landscape designer that donated his time to the creation.

The biggest project that we are working on is the Dellwood Project or FONWRP. The property is currently a 55 acre waste water treatment plant. The idea is to transform the property into a regional park that would include things like an ampitheatre, dog park, butterfly park.

1. **Additional comments:**

**Discussion:** Before adjournment Evelyn Bless asked if there were any further comments. Nancy Manning said that she appreciated the members stated why they are on the board.

1. **Motion to adjourn:**

Adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted:

Paul Berg

Executive Director