

MAYOR:
Bradley D. Belt

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE:
Russell A. Berner

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:
Stephanie Tillerson

TOWN ATTORNEY:
Stafford J. McQuillin III



COUNCIL MEMBERS:
E. Luke Farrell
Madeleine Kaye
Lance Spencer

**Arts Council Board Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 6, 2025 at 9:00 AM**

I. Call to Order: 9:17am

Present: Mayor Brad Belt, Stephanie Tillerson, David Wohl, Caroline Wall

II. FOIA: Notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

III. Old Business:

A. October 8, 2024, Meeting Notes

IV. New Business:

A. 2024-2025 Season Update

i. There are 3 events in January. Caleb Borick sold out and had a 20% no-show rate. Judy Carmichael has 200 tickets sold for Seabrook Island Club and Liquid Pleasure sold out at 400. Ms. Wall noted that 450 tickets were sold last year for Liquid Pleasure and asked the board members if they knew of a reason for the difference in capacity. No reason was found, so we decided to add 30 more tickets and alerted our patrons through email subscription. The additional tickets were sold within a couple of hours.

B. Policy Change Considerations

- i. Ms. Wall and Mr. Wohl addressed the need for clarification in the Arts Council Member Manual regarding a few items. For accommodations; to only allow one-night stays or reimbursement (hotel buyout) in order to mitigate cost. Ms. Tillerson and Mayor Belt encouraged Ms. Wall to try to renegotiate our deals with Andell Inn to get a lower rate.
- ii. Ms. Wall asked the Board about the current ticketing policy regarding release dates for tickets, unique to each event. Ms. Tillerson explained that release dates historically allowed Kiawah residents early access to purchase tickets for performances. The Board agreed that the release date currently, as there is no early access, is unnecessary and can be avoided next season. The Arts Council plans to release tickets for purchase all at once, at a season reveal, once contracts are confirmed. Mr. Wohl mentioned that this may be a more effective way to promote the events.
- iii. Lastly, the Board discussed the potential of allowing the employee member of Arts Council to vote on the season planning proposals. This had been brought up by Mr. Wohl and Ruthie Foster in the past in an effort to increase diversity in our performances. There is currently no policy addressing this. Mayor Belt mentioned that he thinks the employee role should be one of oversight, but made note of the recurring issues regarding season planning. The Board decided to revisit this idea at a later date.

C. LAC Update - Mr. Wohl provided an update for the Lowcountry Arts Center. Two committees are meeting this month continue working on a pitch deck and the website. Mr. Wohl mentioned he is looking to expand the LAC Board and asked Mayor Belt for referrals. Mayor Belt stated that he is interested in pursuing the development of a municipal auditorium as a town initiative in order to expedite the process of providing a cultural center on Johns Island; to be utilized mostly for Arts Council Events, but also multi-use meeting spaces.

D. New Meeting Day for 2025

i. Next meeting will be April 7th, 2025 at 9:00AM and will include a budget review.

V. Public Comments - None

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55am