



**Reston Community Center  
Board of Governors Monthly Meeting  
April 4, 2022  
8:00 p.m.  
Meeting Agenda**

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|--|----------------------------------|
| 8:00 – Call to Order   | Beverly Cosham, Chair            |
| 8:02 – Approval of Agenda  | Beverly Cosham, Chair            |
| 8:03 – Approval of Minutes and Board Actions   | Beverly Cosham, Chair            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of March 7, 2022 Board Minutes<br/>(as reviewed and approved by the Board Secretary)</li> <li>• Approval of March 7, 2022 Board Actions<br/>(as reviewed and approved by the Board Secretary)</li> </ul> |                                  |
| 8:05 – Chair’s Remarks   | Beverly Cosham, Chair            |
| 8:08 – Introduction of Visitors  |                                  |
| 8:10 – Citizen Input   |                                  |
| 8:12 – Committee Reports (March committee meetings were suspended to allow for engagement events)  |                                  |
| 8:25 – Board Member Input on Activities Attended   |                                  |
| 8:35 – Executive Director’s Report   | Leila Gordon, Executive Director |
| 8:45 – Old Business  | Beverly Cosham, Chair            |
| 8:50 – New Business  | Beverly Cosham, Chair            |
| 8:50 – Adjournment   |                                  |

**Reminders:**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
PTAS: Carla Perlo	April 6	8:00 p.m.
Founder’s Day	April 9	12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
PTAS: 123 Andrés	April 9	3:00 p.m.
Green Reston	April 16	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
PTAS: <i>Hamlet’s Big Adventure</i>	April 24	3:00 and 7:00 p.m.
Theatre in the Park	April 29 – May 1	7:00 p.m.



**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
March 7, 2022  
8:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

- Beverly Cosham, Chair
- Bill Bouie
- Laurie Dodd (at 8:15 p.m.)
- Bill Penniman
- Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt
- Dick Stillson
- Paul Thomas

**Absent and Excused:**

- Bill Keefe
- Vicky Wingert

**Attending from RCC Staff:**

- Leila Gordon, Executive Director
- BeBe Nguyen, Deputy Director
- Karen Goff, Public Information Officer
- Rebekah Wingert, Videographer

Bev called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

**MOTION #1:**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Bill B. moved that the agenda be approved as written. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION #2:**

**Approval of the February 7, 2022 Board Minutes**

Bill B. moved that the Board approve the February 7, 2022 Board Minutes. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Paul and Bill P. abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

**MOTION #3:**

**Approval of the February 7, 2022 Board Actions**

Bill B. moved that the Board approve the February 7, 2022 Board Actions. Dick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Paul and Bill P. abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

**Chair's Remarks**

Bev said this is a very strange and trying period. She had a cousin who recently died. She noticed in the posts on her Facebook newsfeed that nine people had lost someone in the last week. Reston Community Orchestra's maestro Dingwall Fleary just lost his wife, who had been ill for some time. She read a poem:

***Epitaph by Merrit Malloy***

When I die  
Give what's left of me away  
To children  
And old men that wait to die.

And if you need to cry,  
Cry for your brother  
Walking the street beside you.  
And when you need me,

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Put your arms  
Around anyone  
And give them  
What you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something,  
Something better  
Than words  
Or sounds.

Look for me  
In the people I've known  
Or loved,  
And if you cannot give me away,  
At least let me live on in your eyes  
And not your mind.

You can love me most  
By letting  
Hands touch hands,  
By letting bodies touch bodies,  
And by letting go  
Of children  
That need to be free.

Love doesn't die,  
People do.  
So, when all that's left of me  
Is love,  
Give me away.  
When I die give what's left of me away ...

### **Visitors**

None

### **Citizen Input**

None

### **Board Member Input on Activities Attended**

Bill B. attended lots of meetings. He attended the Ibram X. Kendi talk in the CenterStage (part of the Professional Touring Artist Series). The county redistricting commission meetings have finished. The recommendation is to rename the Sully and Lee districts. The County Executive released his proposed annual budget last week. It will have a big effect going forward in terms of capital projects. There is a proposal to change the four-year bond cycle to six years. Giving out bonds every six years adds a two-year lag for money you can spend. This will have a significant effect on the Park Authority and could also impact future capital project planning for other agencies in Reston.

Paul attended Ibram X. Kendi's talk and the first Reston Arts Center (RAC) meeting. He saw Art Spiegelman. Paul and the Human Services Council heard a presentation on the county budget. Paul said it will be interesting to see what the Board of Supervisors does with the tax rate. They can apply it to "x" percent of a home's value, suggesting that as a possible path to reducing the impact on property tax bills. For the assessments in November, the estimated average hike was 15 percent, but the numbers in January showed a rise of as much as 30 percent. Leila said a change to the tax rate cannot go higher than advertised, but it can go lower, which was why they adopted the current rate as the advertised rate.

Bill P. attended the Reston Master Plan task force meetings, which are done for the moment. He attended Ibram X. Kendi. He was struck that Dr. Kendi was so soft spoken; he felt that added to how powerful his words were. Bill was at the February 14 and 28 RAC meetings. He said the second one was particularly interesting because he learned so many new details about what arts groups need backstage and to produce a performance.

Dick is finished with his OLLI course on the Pueblos. He attended Dr. Kendi's talk. He had previously read his books. Dick said Dr. Kendi is a respected historian, and historians are generally thoughtful and

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scholarly. Dick did not attend the RAC meetings in February. He had Valentine's Day plans that competed with the February 14 Kickoff. He has watched both meetings online.

Lisa said Dr. Kendi's talk was phenomenal. As someone who works in the field of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), she noted that being surprised by Dr. Kendi's demeanor could be an example of unconscious bias, i.e., expecting a Black man discussing racism to be aggressive and loud because of it angering him. Lisa took part in South Lakes High School's Ethics Day and attended the Art Spiegelman PTAS talk. Lisa was at the first RAC meeting. She saw *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Kennedy Center and enjoyed it immensely.

Bev was at Dr. Kendi and Art Spiegelman, as well as the RAC meetings.

Laurie thought Dr. Kendi was very inspiring. She announced this is her last Board meeting. She is running unopposed for the North Point seat on the Reston Association Board of Directors; being on two boards would be too much. She said she is sad to leave just as COVID-19 may be abating.

### **Executive Director Report**

Leila said the RAC meetings have been very well attended. There is another one next week to concentrate on visual arts. Then there will be two virtual meetings March 28 (Arts Education, Schools and RestON focus) and April 4 (General Wrap-up).

There will be new security cameras installed in both facilities. We have a new vendor for the solar panel installation. We hope to have the panels installed by the end of the year.

Akua Allrich, who was a PTAS performer earlier this season, talked with approximately 900 students at South Lakes High School and more than 300 at Langston Hughes Middle School in February. After two years of having no Diva Central event, we collected more than 300 dresses in February (the shopping event is March 26). We are building a relationship with the new group Reston Forward. We hosted a screening of *Another Way of Living*, with an opportunity to hear it discussed by Rebekah Wingert and Cheryl Terio-Simon. Supervisor Alcorn attended. He was excited to welcome these new constituents.

We are seeing people coming back to RCC buildings and programs. RCC has been open since July 2020, but we are now seeing our numbers go up in all lines of business. We will be interviewing eight candidates for the Communications Director position. The Director of Leisure and Learning position is currently being advertised. We are hiring for maintenance positions and summer camps. Karen Brutsché retired on February 11 after 10 years. Leila was on Reston Forward's first podcast.

### **Old Business**

Leila said we have a tradition of donating \$100 per year of service to a nonprofit of a departing board member's choice. Laurie has chosen Reston Strong. Leila will facilitate the \$300 donation. She and board members again acknowledged and thanked Laurie for her service to RCC.

### **New Business**

Lisa is in the Facebook group Reston Remember When. She offered to take pictures of people's old houses, thinking she would get a few requests. She has been overwhelmed. It shows how much people love (and miss) Reston.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



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Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt  
Board Secretary

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3-14-22  
Date

**BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN AT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING ON MARCH 7, 2022**

- 22-0307 -1      Bd      That the Board approve the Agenda.**
- 22-0307-2      Bd      That the Board approve the February 7, 2022 Board Minutes.**
- 22-0307-3      Bd      That the Board approve the February 7, 2022 Board Actions.**



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Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt  
Board Secretary

3-14-22  
Date



## Executive Director Report March 2022

### **Pillar I – Facilities**

We received and are reviewing the proposal from Ipsun Solar for putting solar panels on our Hunters Woods roof. The RCC Lake Anne kitchen refurbishment is complete (floor and painting). The motor pump for the Lap Lane pool has been repaired. Community engagement regarding a possible new arts center in Reston continued in March and will conclude on April 4.

### **Pillar II – Equity**

The CenterStage presented *Spectacular Falls* – a performance highlighting Anita Hollander’s life through the lens of disability; the show was also interpreted in American Sign Language. The remaining 135 copies of books by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi were provided to Reston Opportunity Neighborhood for distribution to the families in that program. Diva Central served 82 students and gave away a total of 164 dresses along with accessories. RCC Youth/Teen programs offered a free, virtual program about Last-Minute College Financing Strategies; computers at RCC were made available to anyone needing one to participate and a total of 22 people were enrolled. RCC’s Fee Waiver program and job opportunities were promoted at Neighborhood School Readiness, Camp Coalition, South Lakes High School, Terraset Elementary School meetings and job fairs. RCC’s free Math Tutoring sessions serve approximately 15 children weekly. RCC Rides provided 12 rides in March. AARP’s Tax-Aide program continues to be robustly used by many residents. RCC’s engagement around the possible new arts venue included multi-lingual outreach and a session focused specifically on equity and arts education.

### **Pillar III – Community Connections**

Partner efforts in March included working with Reston Association to present an upcoming Reston Plant Swap in May. RCC provided extensive technical and program support to the Reston Founder’s Day planning (events on April 9). During March, Reston Forward attended a screening of *Another Way of Living: The Story of Reston, VA* at the CenterStage, and RCC Board and staff attended a Reston Forward networking event at Red’s Table. RCC staff met with Tephra ICA leadership to evaluate the status of partnered programs.

### **Pillar IV – Programs and Services**

All programming areas are seeing increases in participation. Trips and tours offerings have been restarted with a successful outing to the Kennedy Center to see Riverdance. Youth Art Month generated three different exhibitions for our facilities from Reston schools. Reston’s favorite Irish band, Lúnasa, performed for two full houses and 20 volunteers in recognition of their service to RCC. New Youth program offerings included Happy Birthday, Dr. Suess; Pi Day; and St. Patrick’s Day Shenanigans which were all successful.

### **Pillar V – Communications**

Lorna Campbell Clarke comes to RCC as the new Communications Director on April 26, 2022. Work on the website continues with extensive focus on integration of a new splash page and infrastructure for myRCC (RecTrac) with the new website look and infrastructure.

### **Pillar VI – Stewardship and Accreditation**

Hiring efforts for summer programs are in full swing. The maintenance team has hired two new members. The Director of Leisure and Learning recruitment process is underway. FY24 budget proposals are being worked on to bring to the Board in the coming weeks.

### **Executive Director Activity**

Attended senior staff meetings held by County Executive Hill and Deputy County Executive Leonard. Attended board meetings for Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Public Art Reston and ArtsFairfax. I was interviewed by the local Patch reporter, Michael O’Connell about RCC and our programs and services.