Williamsburg Advisory Council Minutes
Monday, August 5, 2024

Signature: _____ Date: 8-5-24
Judy Knudson, Chair

Members Present: Leslie Bowie, Leslie Coe, Judy Knudson, Sylvia Payne, Megan Rhyne, Patricia Rublein, John Shulson, Jim White, and Bob Wilson

Staff Present: Tom Burton, Sydney Felker, Todd Holcomb, Nick McNamara, Kate Pringle, Nancy Rogan, and Bert Schmidt

I. WELCOME – Judy Knudson called the meeting to order and introduced Bob Wilson and Nick McNamara.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bert Schmidt shared that WHRO received $2.5 million from the Evelyn Y. Davis Foundation to increase the size of the newsroom. Jane Batten has just agreed to donate $3 million to WHRO for the middle school environmental science initiative. WHRO will also receive $100k per year from TowneBank over the next five years for the Spelling Bee. Bert shared that several new members will be joining the WHRO Governing Board of Directors.

III. DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Tom Burton shared that membership was $317k under budget for the fiscal year. Underwriting was $300k under budget for the fiscal year. Tom also shared an update on the new database that Development is using.

IV. MEET THE JOURNALIST – Council members asked Nick McNamara several questions including what topics he will be covering in the region and how best to reach him.

V. VIRGINIA HUMANITIES UPDATE – Nancy Rogan shared that Virginia Humanities will fund WHRO so that the station can fund humanities grants throughout the region beginning in January. WHRO will receive $100k per year, $60k of which will be used to fund the humanities grants.

VI. CONTENT REPORT – Nancy Rogan shared promotions for Opera in Williamsburg, John and Yoko: Above Us Only Sky, Counting the Vote: A Firing Line Special with Margaret Hoover, Leonardo da Vinci: A Film by Ken Burns, and The American Revolution: A Film by Ken Burns. She also shared promotion reels of upcoming PBS arts and culture programming as well as PBS fall drama programming.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS – Tom Burton discussed plans for the WHRO Holiday Reception that will take place in both Norfolk and Williamsburg this year.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 4 2024. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.