

Pickens County Performing Arts Center – Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes from Meeting held 11/15/23 at 6:30 pm at Hampton Library

Attendees: Sjona Lindquist, Sarah Cassano, Crystal Barkley, Sharon Gantt, Carlene Gilstrap, Alex Siatta, Les Hendricks

Crystal Barkley, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Minutes from last meeting (8/8/23) were read over. The minutes were agreed on and submitted.

Board motioned to remove Becky Ellison from board. Crystal Barkley motioned to proceed and all agreed.

The non-profit status for Pickens County Performing Arts Center has been revoked as well as the business license. We need help going forward as the County Council liaison has not reached out to us to help. Les Hendricks, County council lawyer, said that we could not do business until we got everything straightened out and reinstated. This is referring to the Secretary of State and the IRS. Sjona Lindquist, our Treasurer said she has reached out to the Secretary of State of South Carolina and the Charity Division of the State. She was told that she needed to have financial records to go forward. She has not been able to get all the records. Sjona confronted Les about not being able to get the records when she came by his office on February 7, 2023. His office told her that he did not have the records as they were at Albright Associates. This was after being told by former chair, Andrew Mullinax, that he gave all the records to Les Hendricks. Albright Associates said they did not have them. Les stated that he did not have the records. He also said he was unable to get into the bank account for the PAC at First Citizens Bank in Liberty. Les said he would work on locating the books and helping the board get into the bank account and straightening out the charter (non-profit) issue. He went into detail about how the board can get started again. He did say that the board would have to get the tax returns completed as the last one was 2019. Les stated that he would investigate as to what happened and would reach out to First Citizens.

Alex Siatta, county council member, attended the meeting. He had read the article in the Pickens Courier about the PAC and its troubles. He was concerned. He had looked over the spotty minutes for the PAC for the last few years. He said he was against from the beginning letting the management company, owned by Dendy Brooks and Justin Williams have the running of the building. He did state that it looked like the current board inherited the problems from the previous board.

It was concluded that we need to have the following things accomplished in order to go forward:

1. Need all bank records – statements, cancelled checks, etc.
2. Tax returns completed from 2019 to present

The meeting concluded with Alex Siatta stating he would call the State Department to see if the non-profit entity could operate or not. Les Hendricks would look into the financial situation and get back with us.

The meeting was adjourned.