



CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

MEETING

August 8, 2018

6:00 P.M.

Arts, Culture & Historical Resources Office

9 West Henry Street

MINUTES

Present:

Commissioners:

Darren Bagley-Heath, Brea Cali, Linda Wilder-Bryan, Barbara Essig, Andrea Hall-Houston, Patrick Kelsey, Courtney Papy, Tanet Taharka Meyers, Kareem McMichael, Kristopher Monroe, Antwan Lang

City Staff:

- Rebecca Brown, Contract Coordinator Arts, Culture & Historical Resources
- Llana Samuel, Marketing Coordinator, Arts, Culture & Historical Resources
- Luciana Spracher, Director of Municipal Archives & Records Management and Acting Clerk of Council

Public:

Philip Davis, Susan Gray

Absent:

Commissioners: Esther Buchsbaum, Linda J. Evans, Janice James, Willia Johnson, Alix Lancy, Sue Ruby, Lisa Clark

I. Determination of Quorum/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Brea Cali, Chair. Quorum was met and the June 13 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the June 13 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Cali, seconded by Commissioner Taharka Myers, and unanimously carried.

II. Announcements

Commissioner Cali welcomed new commissioner Kristopher Monroe and shared greetings from absent commissioners James and Buchsbaum.

Ms. Cali announced that the location of the Cultural Affairs Commission Meet & Greet event is the Beach Institute and that it will take place on September 12 at

6pm. She added that an email will be sent to all commissioners to be shared as an invitation with others.

Commissioner Lang asked whether the event would be publicized in the local paper and other media outlets. Ms. Brown said she would check with the Director, Eileen Baker.

Ms. Taharka-Myers asked for date clarification for the Meet & Greet and was answered by Ms. Cali.

Ms. Cali announced that a tour of the new Cultural Arts Center is being organized for the commissioners. It will take place on September 20 at 4pm and an email will be sent to commissioners so they can RSVP.

Ms. Cali notified commissioners that a group photo will be taken at the end of the meeting.

III. Cultural Program Assessment and Reports

DEEP Inc.

Commissioner Cali attended the Block by Block's *Go Back and Fetch It* end of year performance on June 23 at the Jepson Center for the Arts. She noted that the venue was $\frac{3}{4}$ full and the audience demographics were as follows: 5% children, 30% young adults, 20% adults, 15% seniors. Ms. Cali added that the event was well organized, clearly presented, and met all educational goals. She noticed marketing and communication efforts were made through social media, Connect Savannah, Visit Savannah, email newsletters and the city logo was present on all programs.

KING-TISDELL COTTAGE FOUNDATION

Commissioner Essig attended the Effective Teaching in the 21st Century: An Emphasis on Cultural Receptivity Lecture, on July 25, at the Beach Institute African American Cultural Center. She reported that the venue was only $\frac{1}{4}$ full and was unsure that an event was taking place as the main gate was locked and attendees had to enter on the other side of the building.

Ms. Essig noted that the city was recognized during the event and a survey was available for attendees. About 50% of the audience were adults aged 21-59 and the other 50% were aged 60 and over. She added that the topic of the lecture was interesting however, it was difficult to understand where the lecture was going and that it would have been better with visuals.

TELFAIR MUSEUM OF ART

Commissioner McMichael attended the Open Road Free Family Day on August 5 at the Jepson Center. He noted that there was at least 250 or more people and the audience ages were as follows: 15% 0-5, 20% 6-13, 20% 14-17, 5% 18-20, 30% 21-59 and 10% 60+. Mr. McMichael added that the event was well organized, with a variety of hands-on activities for children and adults, and that a map made it easy to navigate the building. Communication and marketing for the event was noticed on social media, e-newsletter, the local paper, and Mr. McMichael received an invitation.

Commissioner Cali reminded the other commissioners that the fall is a busy season so try to attend contracted events as much as they can.

IV. Weave-A-Dream Committee Report – Courtney Papy

Commissioner Papy reported that there is currently \$20,906.06 in the Weave-A-Dream account, the deadline for 2018 applications is November 18, and that there are 2 pending applications. She asked fellow commissioners to continue to spread the word about the program and to share the Weave-A-Dream video with the public.

No commissioners attended the Urban Hope Garden Show on July 27. Ms. Papy notified the commission that the organization's final report will be due on September 10.

Commissioner Kelsey asked for clarification on the Weave-A-Dream application guidelines. Ms. Brown informed him that he should follow up with the department director.

V. Subcommittee Reports –

Youth Advisory

Commissioner Bagley-Heath announced that all members of the youth advisory subcommittee met on July 10 to discuss the selection process for youth advisory members via an application process. Commissioner Taharka Myers passed around examples of other youth program applications from various Savannah organizations for meeting attendees to see.

Mr. Bagley-Heath noted that the subcommittee would like a broad range of young people ranging from age 13-21, from each district and both at-large districts, to be a part of the advisory committee.

City of Savannah Priorities

Commissioner Kelsey reported that he and Commissioner James reviewed the operations manual in their first meeting and are putting a framework in place to hold community meetings to find out what residents want from the city. Mr. Kelsey added that these meetings will be used to inform a cultural masterplan.

Public Art

Commissioner Papy reported that the subcommittee has held several successful meetings and are focusing on three efforts. Their first effort is helping the Waters Avenue Citizens Coalition to figure out how Public Art plays into economic and cultural development of that area.

Ms. Papy stated the second effort was meeting with the MPC to discuss a 1% fund for public art and development. She also mentioned meeting with city staff to discuss what can be done to promote infrastructure and beautification.

The third effort is for the subcommittee to decide what is defined as public art, expanding the definition of public art and building up the 1% fund for all new development.

Commissioner Lang suggested connecting with Keep Savannah Beautiful as a potential partnership in reference to Ms. Papy's beautification and infrastructure goal. Mr. Kelsey also suggested looking into working with Chatham Area Transit on a partnership to improve the bus shelters.

Ms. Papy also mentioned that Chatham Area Transit has a new initiative with bus wraps so the committee is in conversations with board members to get more information.

Ms. Papy concluded the report by stating that the next public art subcommittee meeting will take place on October 24th and is open to the public.

VI. Chair Report – Brea Cali

[Nothing to Report]

Before the meeting ended, Mr. Kelsey wanted to clarify whether there were only eight commissioners volunteering to review 2019 proposals. Ms. Brown said that there are usually 8-9 volunteers and the date options in the poll to the commissioners had the same number of volunteers for both dates selected.

Mr. Lang asked whether the Investment proposal review session was a subcommittee and Ms. Brown clarified that it was not a subcommittee and is volunteer based. She added that those who volunteer must be available for the entire process.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

VII. Investment Proposals Review Information Session – Rebecca Brown

Following adjournment, Ms. Brown held a presentation on the Investment Proposal Review which is scheduled for August 18, 2018. Seven commissioners volunteered to assist with the event and will be in attendance.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will be held on October 10 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at 9 W. Henry Street.