

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING**

January 9, 2019

6:00 P.M.

**Savannah Civic Center, Bryan Room
301 W. Oglethorpe Avenue**

MINUTES

Present: *Commissioners:* Darren Bagley-Heath, Lisa Clark, Eddie Edenfield, Barbara Essig, Linda J. Evans, Andrea Hall-Houston, Janice James, Patrick Kelsey, Jan Kramer, Alix Laincy, Kareem McMichael, Kristopher Monroe, Courtney Papy, Tanet U. Taharka-Myers, Anne Westbrook, Linda Wilder-Bryan, Debra Zumstein

City Staff:

- Rebecca Brown, Contract Coordinator Arts, Culture & Historical Resources
- Llana Samuel, Marketing Coordinator, Arts, Culture & Historical Resources
- Veleeta McDonald, Special Projects Coordinator, Community Services
- Luciana M. Spracher, Municipal Archives & Records Management Director

Absent: *Commissioners:* Sue Ruby

I. Determination of Quorum/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Coco Papy, Chair. Quorum was met and the December 12 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Evans to approve the meeting minutes as they are written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelsey and unanimously carried.

II. Introduction of New Commissioners

Commissioner Papy introduced the four new Cultural Affairs Commissioners: Anne Allen-Westbrook, Debra Zumstein, Eddie Edenfield, and Jan Kramer. Ms. Papy welcomed the new Commissioners and thanked them for giving their time to the Commission.

III. Announcements

Commissioner Papy announced that Commissioners should submit their 2019 conflict of interest forms as soon as possible because organization assignments would be made soon by herself and Commissioner Evans.

She also announced that the Weave-A-Dream committee will be opening up spaces for more members tonight and that a quick marketing meeting for Weave-A-Dream will also be held after the Commission meeting with the Department's Marketing Coordinator.

Lastly, Ms. Papy highlighted that the back of the meeting packet had a list of upcoming events and that Mountainfilm on Tour in Savannah had many events coming up, and encouraged the Commissioners to attend even without organization assignments.

Commissioner Wilder-Bryan asked whether Commissioners needed to pay for ticketed events and Ms. Brown clarified that the Commissioners are only required to attend the contracted Movies That Matter events which are free.

Commissioner Evans explained the upcoming contracted events for Mountain Film Savannah and their locations and times.

IV. Cultural Program Assessment and Reports

DEEP Inc.

Commissioner Kelsey attended DEEP Center's Block by Block program on December 15 and reported that there were about 25-30 youth present for the big poetry slam event. He noted that the event was a lot of fun and a lot of sponsors were present along with a few DEEP Center members. Mr. Kelsey also said that the program was a great investment.

KING-TISDELL COTTAGE FOUNDATION

Commissioner Essig attended the lecture at the Beach Institute on December 12. She stated that the event was well attended and it was also the first time she noticed it was attended by a demographic that reflected the community.

Ms. Essig reported that the program's priority was economic development, covered the principles of Kwanzaa, and that the question and answer session at the end was a long and lengthy discussion. The discussion reportedly was about economic development and how people can support each other and small businesses in the community. Ms. Essig also noted that the organization is doing a good job of offering lecture topics that people seem to be interested in.

TELFAIR MUSEUM OF ART

No new information was reported about Telfair Museum of Art since the December Commission meeting.

V. Weave-A-Dream Committee Report – Rebecca Brown

Ms. Brown reported that there are no pending applications for the Weave-A-Dream program and that information will be released on either Friday or Monday for the 2019 year. She announced that Taffanye Young had adjusted the maximum amount that can be requested to \$3,000. Ms. Brown pointed out that the program priorities will remain the same and that Commissioners Papy and Evans are working with her to revise the guidelines so they are clearer on what kinds of programs can be done, as well as adding more inclusive language about the types of art projects.

Ms. Brown stated that Ms. Samuel is working on developing a marketing plan for Weave-A-Dream and that the funding amounts available would support about 14 applicants.

Commissioner Monroe asked if there was a reason for raising the amount that can be requested and Commissioner Papy replied that it was because they had requested the amount be raised.

Commissioner Kelsey asked whether the City will continue to exempt or disqualify artists that are classified as students. Ms. Brown responded and stated that the City does not invest in programs that are curriculum-based. She clarified with an example of a student doing a program that goes towards their degree and how that would be a scholarship if the City invested in that program. Ms. Brown ended by saying that the City does not provide scholarships for students through this specific program and that if a student has a project they want to propose, they are welcomed to do so but it cannot be invested in if the project fulfills their degree requirements.

Commissioner Wilder-Bryan asked whether applicants will be walked through the process to which Commissioner Papy answered that Ms. Brown is looking at a drop-in day and other strategies for that.

VI. Subcommittee Updates & Selection of New Members

Commissioner Kelsey reported that the City Priorities subcommittee submitted a proposal for an exploratory study of a master plan in October 2018 and that it is still pending approval from the Commission on whether it is moving forward. He noted that the proposal was not discussed in December either.

Commissioner Papy asked Ms. Brown whether she had the proposal and Ms. Brown said that she needed to check her files. Ms. Papy then asked if the proposal was something that could be voted on during the meeting and Ms. Brown noted that as the proposal had already been entered into the record, she was unclear about what the Commissioners would be voting on.

Commissioner Kelsey clarified that the Commissioners would be voting on whether they wanted to move forward with the proposal or not and Ms. Brown said she would print the proposals out for the next Commission meeting where the Commission would be able to make a recommendation to City.

Commissioner Papy asked whether the lack of an executive director would be a problem for voting on the proposal and Commissioner Kelsey responded he did not think so as they would not be recommending anything to City Council. He stated that they are only conducting a research project to see what the community, organizations, and individual artists want. If there is enough research indicating a need for a large scale plan, the Commission would look at providing a recommendation to City Council at that time.

Commissioner Bagley-Heath asked for an emailed copy of the proposal and Ms. Brown asked Commissioner Kelsey to send her an electronic version so she could share it with Commissioners.

Commissioner Taharka-Myers reported that the Youth Advisory subcommittee did not have any new updates since the last meeting and that they would present a draft application at the next meeting. Commissioner Bagley-Heath also noted that their subcommittee needs direction from the new Director.

Commissioner Papy reported that the Public Art subcommittee is moving forward in conversation with Taffanye in regard to a 1% art fund. She asked whether any new members wanted to join any of the subcommittees and Commissioner Kramer asked for a simple definition of each subcommittee.

Commissioner Kelsey briefly defined the City Priorities subcommittee, Commissioner Taharka-Myers defined the Youth Advisory subcommittee, and Commissioner Papy defined the Public Art subcommittee.

Commissioner Linda J. Evans shared that the City had now joined the two priorities of economic development and poverty reduction. Ms. Brown replied that economic development and poverty reduction, as City priorities, had been listed together in the budget book but that until a new director is hired, the department would continue to look at those priorities separately.

VII. Chair Report

Commissioner Papy announced that she did not have anything to report at this time.

VIII. Contract Coordinator's Report

Ms. Brown announced that she sent an email to Commissioners outlining what constitutes a conflict of interest and asked Commissioners to notify her of any conflicts or whether they'd like to add new conflicts.

She reported that she is currently working on scheduling contract meetings and will send out invites if Commissioners would like to attend the contract meeting for the organization they are assigned to.

Ms. Brown also reported that she, Ms. Samuel and other department staff are working on creating programming and opening the new center. She pointed out that there was no date for opening yet, but that all Commissioners will be invited to the grand opening and that she will share updates once they are received.

Commissioner Evans reminded Commissioners to attend PULSE Festival, Mountain Film events, and Savannah Black Heritage Festival events.

Ms. Brown announced that new evaluation forms were on the City's website for Commissioners to access and that three extra things were added to the form along with the removal of public safety as a priority.

Commissioner Papy told Commissioners they only need to submit evaluation forms for organizations they are assigned to and encouraged them to attend other events as well.

It was asked whether evaluations could still count toward meeting attendance and form requirements event if the evaluator isn't assigned to a particular organization.

Commissioner Evans answered saying she recommended that Commissioners do a written evaluation for each event they attend because that is what they will use to report back to the City.

Commissioner Edenfield asked if he attended 3 events by the same organization required a separate evaluation for each event and Commissioners Papy and Evans answered yes.

A Commissioner also asked what the changes to the evaluation forms were and Ms. Brown replied that the changes were as follows: public safety was removed,

a question about the appropriateness of the venue was added, and a question about whether the organization presented what they proposed in the application was added.

Commissioner Evans added that it was decided each Commissioner would get a copy of the organization's contract and project confirmation so they could know what programs were proposed.

Ms. Brown closed her report by notifying new Commissioners that they would receive a 300 page document via email that includes the proposals for the investment program.

IX. General Discussion

Commissioner Monroe asked whether there was any new information to divulge about a new director. Ms. Brown responded that the department hadn't received any word about the process but that she thought the job was posted on the website.

Commissioner Wilder-Bryan asked whether there was an individual the Commission is connected to from the school board, so that partnerships can be formed with contracted organizations. Commissioner Papy replied that the school board would need to reach out to the specific organization they are interested in partnering with.

Commissioner Kelsey asked how the investment figures were determined for the recommendation of services that was submitted to City Council. Ms. Brown responded that the scoring rubric was sent to the budget department, so the amounts awarded to organizations were based on that rubric. She noted that the rubric was adjusted prior to the application process beginning so it could be more inclusive for organizations to work with the City.

Commissioner Laincy announced that the Savannah Black Heritage Festival is next month and encouraged Commissioners to attend three specific events because of their importance. The events he states were the Grand Festival Day, a dance, and the Future of Jazz event.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will be held on March 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bryan Room at the Savannah Civic Center.