



Cultural District Commission
Meeting Notes: December 14, 2017

Call to Order

Commission Chair Kellie Williams called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance: Kellie Williams, Scott Koets, Ryan Huette, Loreto Delgado III, Carole Ringer, Emily Vignieri, Angelique Racki, Ron Crick, Jamie Mathy.

Staff In attendance: Ann-Marie Dittmann, Nick Niemerg, Eric Veal, Tricia Stiller, Steve Rasmussen.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the Commission Meeting held on November 9 were not included in the December meeting packet. As such, minutes from November 9 and December 14 will be presented for approval at the January meeting.

Staff Reports:

- Administrative
 - Tricia Stiller, as the commission's staff liaison, will serve as recording secretary for the commission. She will partner with commission chair to ensure meeting notices and agendas are developed and posted according to public notice ordinance. Also, agenda and related preparatory materials will be sent to commission prior to each meeting.
- BCPA
 - Ann-Marie reported that Comedian Mike Birbiglia's recent appearance was a virtual sell out and the Holiday Spectacular reported record attendance. The Nutcracker Ballet is scheduled at the end of the month. In addition, there have been new shows added to the BCPA lineup, including Sister Hazel & Carbon Leaf, Ed Asner and his one man show, "A Man and his Prostate," Matthew Curry with Edward David Anderson, and KANSAS.
 - Eric Veal reported that Performing Arts Manager Candidate interviews have been completed. Planned timeline is for a formal offer to be accepted before the end of the year, with employment to begin in January 2018. Commission Chair Kellie Williams was present at each interview.
Eric also offered that during the conversations surrounding the VenuWorks management proposal, BCPA and PRCA staff identified areas in need of improvement at the BCPA. The city's IS Department is working to improve the box office ticketing system, and to enhance WIFI connectivity between the Creativity Center and the BCPA.

New Business:

- City attorney has weighed in on whether city employees can serve on city commissions. While no written rule exists, potential conflicts may occur and it is recommended that city employees do not serve. As such Commissioner Nikita Richards will be resigning from the commission.

Commission then met in two small groups

- Vice Chair Scott Koets facilitated a conversation regarding the ordinances that have defined the Cultural District Commission in its various evolutions since it was created in 2000. Included in this group were Commissioners Ron Crick, Jamie Mathy and Emily Vigneri, along with staff member Tricia Stiller. It was recommended that the word “downtown” be removed from the language, in order to allow the group’s purview to expand as needed to meet the cultural needs of the community as a whole. This aligns with the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan. Other items discussed but not finalized included commission size and the mandated inclusion of an elected official, to serve a 3 year term as all other commissioners.

Chair Kellie Williams facilitated a conversation regarding the origin of the commission and the designated roles and duties of each commissioner. It was agreed that further clarity was needed. Included in this group were Commissioners Carole Ringer, Loreto Delgado III, Angelique Racki, and Ryan Huette, along with staff members Ann-Marie Dittmann, Nick Niemerg and Eric Veal. Carole recommended that this commission adhere to the same 3-term limit as other city commissions.

It was recommended that all commissioners review the “Bring It On, Bloomington” Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 7 - Arts, Culture and History, which can be found at the following link: http://www.mcplan.org/egov/documents/1440606392_75951.pdf

- Jamie shared that he had recently been approached by a local hotelier who expressed interest in booking and providing catering for additional events in the BCPA Ballroom. Ann-Marie expressed a willingness to discuss opportunities, but clarified that the general perception of the ballroom sitting idle is inaccurate. The venue is actually in high-demand with month of time blocked out well into 2020.

Kellie thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement. Carole moved to adjourn, which Jamie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 am.

Respectfully submitted: Tricia Stiller, Downtown Division Manager, Community Development