Cultural Commission Minutes: July 26, 2018

Call to Order: Commission Chair Kellie Williams called the meeting to order at 7:34 am

Roll Call: Julia Cozad-Callighan, Jamie Mathy, Jeff Crabill, Scott Koets, Kellie Williams, Angelique Racki, Carole Ringer

Staff Attendance: Steve Rasmussen, Eric Veal, Ann-Marie Ditmann,

Minutes Approval: Minutes of July 12, 2018 meeting approved as submitted; 1st Scott Koets, 2nd Jamie Mathy

Staff Reports:

Steve: Cultural Commission staff support has been moved to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts department from the Community Development department.

Approximately 6 months ago it was separated to break up the work load in staff departments. Parks will now be staff support to Cultural Commission and the Friends of the BCPA to foster communication between both. Cultural Commission can still work with Bob and Community Development as needed.

Business:

Kellie: Review and discussion of Cultural District criteria.

Goal: Narrow last meeting's suggestions to an approved set of criteria for a Bloomington Cultural District.

Discussion topics by Commission Members included: 6 downtown Indiana districts; is there a preferred order for criteria; walkability; variety of programming; "year round" vs seasonality; and offering a variety of ongoing Cultural Experiences.

The Cultural Commission will come before City Council with their recommendations for criteria, either as a standalone item or combined with boundary recommendations.

Jamie: Friends of the BCPA are pushing for a defined boundary as quickly as possible to assist the new BCPA Development Manager.

Can Cultural Commission get the new zoning map for downtown? Steve has a copy and it will be brought to the next Cultural Commission meeting for review.

Questions: Will there be more than 1 district?

Will they each have a name?

How can we make them connected?

Vote: Motion to accept: 1st Scott Koets, 2nd Angelique Racki

Motion passed unanimously for the following criteria, goals, and descriptor of a Bloomington Cultural District.

What is a cultural district?
A cultural district is a geographic area that has a concentration of cultural facilities, activities and assets. It is a walkable area that is easily identifiable to visitors and residents and serves as a center of cultural, artistic and economic activity. A cultural district may contain galleries, live performance venues, theaters, artist studios, museums, arts centers, arts schools, and public art pieces. A cultural district may also contain businesses like restaurants, banks or parks whose primary purpose is not arts, but that regularly create opportunities for the public to encounter the arts.

A Cultural District for the City of Bloomington will:

- Be well-defined, geographically contiguous and have a distinct identity as a vibrant cultural hub.
- Be walkable and/or accessible, and attractive to locals and visitors alike.
- Focus on an existing cultural anchor such as a major art institution, art and entertainment businesses, an area or business with arts and cultural activities or cultural or artisan production.
- Offer a variety of ongoing cultural experiences.
- Encourage and include artist collaboration and participation in events, planning and educational activities.
- Be distinguished by unique resources that clearly contribute to the quality of life of the community, including its cultural, economic and workforce development.

The goals of a Cultural District are to:

- Have an economic impact on the city, attracting businesses, tourists, and local residents.
- Develop a wide range of public and private support.
- Establish and sustain strong collaborations with arts and non-arts organizations, including individual artists.
- Attract artists, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural enterprises.

Upcoming Events: BCPA Season Announce party on July 31st 6 pm

Meeting adjourned: Adjourned at 8:36 am, 1st Scott Koets, 2nd Kellie Williams

Next meeting: August 9th @ 7:30 am