Cultural Commission Minutes: July 18, 2019

Call to Order: There were not enough members for a quorum, but those who were there met and discussed upcoming items. Ron Crick called the meeting to order at 7:35 am

Roll Call: Ron Crick, Julia Cozad-Callighan, Jeff Crabill

Staff Attendance: Jim Mack, Samantha Stills, Cara Peterson, Ann-Marie Dittmann

Minutes Approval: Minutes of June 20, 2019 were not able to be approved due to no quorum. This will be voted on at next meeting.

Public Comment

Ron asked Bruce Bergethon to chat with the group about an upcoming event he wanted to make the Cultural Commission aware of.

Bruce: discussed an event called MandoLincoln, which is a very unique cultural event that has never been to Bloomington before. The event is taking place on October 9th through the 13th. It will be at the Marriot Hotel in Normal. It is a national convention of classical Mandolinists. There will be over 100 mandolin family players and guitarists from all over the U.S., Canada and Europe. At the end of the convention these 100 artists will present a show/concert to the public.

Ron asked Bruce if he was working with the CBB to publicize this event.

Bruce stated he was and asked if the Cultural Commission had any other suggestions of outlets to publicize this event.

Staff Reports

Ann-Marie Dittmann: The Summer Theater Workshop is currently taking place. They are in their second week and the end of the workshop presentation will be this Friday July 19th at 2:00pm. The traveling theater is up and running. And the Season Announcement Party invites have gone out. Tickets for the new season will be on sale to the public on August 22nd.

Old Business

Ron asked Jim to update the group on the Internship with Illinois Wesleyan University.

Jim: There will be a meeting with IWU next month and he will need a very detailed document that will need to state the projects the intern would be needed for. Who the intern will check in with, etc.

Ron: Kellie mentioned Mark Halx would be a good liaison to talk with the Intern, Illinois Wesleyan, and The Cultural Commission.

Ron asked members what their feelings were and what they think the Cultural Commission would want and need the intern doing for the Commission.

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Ann-Marie asked if this was an unpaid or paid internship.

Jim stated it would be an unpaid internship for credit at IWU.

Ann-Marie: Internships tend to work better when they are semester by semester when only giving credit and not pay. It will probably be hard to get someone for the whole year in an unpaid status. However, if they can find someone for the whole year, this helps tremendously and works out better.

Ron: stated his thoughts were to start with an intern for a semester to see how it goes and moving forward things can be changed if needed.

Ron mentioned Kellie created a document of entities/relationship focal point organizations. The group needs to know if these organizations are current, interested in working with Cultural Commission, full business, one person owned, etc. The intern should really concentrate on this task first and foremost.

Cara: Can the intern help with the Arts Conference?

Ron: fully agreed helping with the Arts Conference is needed and the two projects go hand in hand because the entities are who the Cultural Commission would be wanting to invite to the Conference.

Jeff: asked if the intern would be able to search for grants.

Jim: stated an intern is probably not the best suited person to be looking for grants and filling out or searching for grant opportunities.

Cara: Could the intern possibly be a liaison to all the entities such as the DBA, AART, etc. to be able to reach out to all entities and present back to the Cultural Commission to keep communication on-going?

Ron felt the intern could certainly be reporting communications between groups.

Jim: stated it was asked to him if the intern would be bringing his projects and work back to BCPA staff or to a Cultural Commission member. Mark Halx was talked about to be this person the intern would check in with.

<u>Intern Task/Projects:</u>

1. List of all Cultural & Arts Organizations (update, fix, add to, etc.)
2. Arts Conference
3. Reporting to Commission (Mark Halx)

New Business

Jim: Carole mentioned that the AART wanted to do a conference. The Cultural Commission likes this idea and will participate however, The Cultural Commission is looking to do something on a grander scale with more attendees. The date was put on the Calendar for Friday November 8th from noon to 6:00pm. This should give the Cultural Commission plenty of time to put together an amazing event and it gives the intern time to prepare for event and help with the event. A Friday afternoon allows for a happy hour type of event before going into the weekend.

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Jim: discussed the document that Kellie and Melissa put together with their ideas for the Arts Conference.

Ron: asked everyone how they felt about November 8th.

Julia: November 8th is early enough to not get into Holidays and a Friday afternoon is what the group wanted.

The three members who were at meeting decided to move forward with this date for the Arts Conference.

Ron: asked the group how they felt about asking Melissa to continue being the project manager for the Arts Conference. Other members can be asked to do specific tasks and duties but Melissa has a very good start with the document presented.

Ron: asked the members to thoroughly look through Melissa's document and bring issues, comments or concerns to next meeting.

Ron stated there is a lot to accomplish for this event, that is listed on the document and the group needs to move forward.

Last Thoughts:

Ron: stated Kellie asked him to talk to Illinois Arts Council about their website. It seems they have members listed but most terms were expired in 2017. Ron asked the Council and was told the members serve until they decide not to serve any longer. There are a couple of vacancies and there is a section on their website to fill out and send to governor. It is up to him to approve or not approve memberships. Ron felt the Cultural Commission needed someone to serve on that Council. Ron asked Jim if this was ever thought about by the BCPA.

Jim: stated the Arts Council here in Illinois will be recipient of $50 million dollars to be dispersed and handed out.

Ann-Marie: disagreed and stated Arts Alliance Illinois is the group receiving and handing out the money.

Ron stated he would look into this to figure out what group is going to be responsible so the Cultural Commission knows whom to contact.

Jim: asked Bruce to come back to the next meeting to present to the Cultural Commission group again when more members are present.

Meeting Adjourned:
Adjourned at 8:11am

Next Meeting:
August 15, 2019

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