

Cultural Commission Minutes: June 20, 2019

Call to Order: Kellie Williams called the meeting to order at 7:30 am

Roll Call: Kellie Williams, Ron Crick, Julia Cozad-Callighan, Angelique Racki, Mark Halx, Melissa Libert, Jamie Mathy

Staff Attendance: Jim Mack, Samantha Stills, Cara Peterson

Minutes Approval: Minutes of June 20, 2019 were approved as submitted. All members voted "Aye."

Kellie: Beth Whisman and Adam Fox from the Town of Normal will be joining the meeting a bit later and Carole Ringer has come with public comments for the group.

Public Comment

Carole: AART is proposing to have a round table of arts and cultural groups from Bloomington and Normal as well as local towns, to bring everyone together and air out things. Public art is a big topic to be discussed. It seems silly to have multiple groups doing the same thing. If all these groups come together and communicate to enhance these types of programs, there is no need for multiple groups to have the same type of gathering. AART is willing to host this type of event and have a round table conference to have these type of meetings. This is something everyone needs to work together on to bring such a large scaled conference together smoothly.

Carole: While reading the minutes from the last Cultural Commission meeting, it seemed there was confusion between the Cultural Commission and the Cultural District. The Ordinance for the Cultural Commission was a city wide focus. It was not just for Downtown Bloomington. It was for the whole City of Bloomington. It was asked what can the Cultural Commission do to enhance all of Bloomington. The Commission should be thinking big and broad. The Cultural District is for the Downtown Bloomington Arts, restaurants, businesses etc. They are two very different entities. One is very broad, while the other is very defined. The district needs some sort of leadership. The Cultural Commission can and should help find that leadership.

Kellie: City-wide, broad horizons is how the Commission continues to move forward. With the Cultural Commission the mission and vision has never changed.

Jamie: In regards to the conference, all groups were thought of, including Town of Normal; trying to bring as many people as possible to bring together for this conference. The more the better was the thought from the group.

Mark: Hopefully the conference would bring connections together and new relationships networks.

Mark: asked the group if many groups, in the past, have been asked or invited to Cultural Commission meetings.

Jamie: mentioned a couple of times had groups been invited in the past, but not many at all. The Cultural Commission is more focused on the City as a whole now and how it can enhance and better the City of Bloomington.

Kellie: passed out a current list of members with information and phone numbers that should be up to date up to this present time. Jessie Smart has resigned from the Commission. This means there are two vacancies currently. Also with Jessie's departure, there are now three different wards that are not being represented within the City. She asked the members to think about people who could fill these positions and if anyone has anyone in mind to let her know.

Staff Reports

Jim: Farnsworth is the architect for the HVAC system at the Creativity Center. Bid proposals should go out in about a week to two weeks and formal bids take some time. It is a hope that the work will start in September and be done in October. This is the goal. The BCPA is slow with performances right not, however Celebrate America is July 3rd and 4th.

Angelique: The Cultural fest is coming up on August 10th.

New Business

Jamie: Is there a date for the Season Announce party?

Jim: Augusts 14th will be the season announce event for the 2019-2020 season.

Kellie: mentioned Samantha needs a few photos of the Commissioners for the City website.

Jim: All Commissioner's photos will be put on the City website for the public to see and be able to know a face with a name for all Commissions within the City of Bloomington.

Kellie: Jim met with Illinois Wesleyan about the intern program and possibility. She asked him to give a update on this.

Jim: asked for an intern who could do research for the Cultural Commission. They won't necessarily do paperwork. It would be open to entire campus, not just art related interns. Jim will meet with Illinois Wesleyan again next month to move forward and figure all the small details out. In the meantime, he asked the Commissioners to think of projects of what the Commission would need the intern to do. What projects can this intern do to help the Commission make great progress and continue to move forward. The intern would start next semester when school starts back up, around September.

Angelique: asked if the intern would be available for only a semester or for the whole school year.

Jim: clarified these decisions are up to the Commission and the needs they have. The Commission could ask for all year, or they could ask for a different intern each semester.

Jamie: Listed a few ideas or projects he thought were great projects for an intern. He felt getting a new intern each semester made more sense and would be best to be able to rotate out interns.

Kellie: asked the Commissioners to think about this and get ideas together those ideas forward to her or Jim. Jim will need to make a formal write up as to what exactly will be expected and needed from the intern.

Kellie: Welcomed Beth Whisman and Adam Fox to the group

Beth Whisman: stated she asked Adam Fox to join her in the meeting as he is very much involved in all the larger Town of Normal projects and events. Since day 1 of her joining the Town of Normal, it has continued to be discussed what the Vision of the Town of Normal is. Right now Uptown Normal is the main focus. Eventually they want it to grow throughout all of Normal. The Town of Normal is working on vision and what they want moving forward. But budget cuts were just recently made last year. Explaining why Cultural Arts and Culture are so important have become grown in topic over the past few years. And then explaining how they can make an impact on a limited budget.

Beth Whisman: mentioned her focus is on events right now. Because events are what bring the Community together. She mentioned ideas where the Creativity Center from the City of Bloomington could bring the Town of normal and City of Bloomington together.

Beth Whisman: The Art Mural situation is a huge challenge right now. They want to be involved and help where they can, but there is only so much they can do in that situation. It doesn't really involve the Town of Normal. Public Art in the Town of Normal is extremely important.

Adam Fox: The Music Festival is a huge event that engages the community and people. This is the perfect event where community partners are extremely needed. This event is not limited to the Town of Normal. All events allow the Town of Normal to look and think about partnerships. There are no limits in their minds.

Beth Whisman: to be able to take things further outside the Town of Normal will hugely depend on community partnerships.

Jamie: used the Shakespeare Festival as an example of how the BCPA partners with Illinois State University and the impact it has on the community as it is an 8-week event.

Mark: Would like to accomplish something each time he comes back to the Cultural Commission meetings. He asked if things could start being done by individuals as the Commission isn't really accomplishing or moving forward as quickly as he would like to see. Every meeting he felt stuff should be brought to the table to discuss what was accomplished by certain individuals every meeting.

Kellie: mentioned things in the past that were discussed that the Commissioners could do moving forward. She also agreed the Commission needs to be more of a working board.

Jim: likes the idea of a collaboration. He desires greatly to develop relationships and partnerships, but in the past, any time he has reached out for events, he is told it is too late to become involved. He asked the Commissioners to bring upcoming events they would like the Cultural Commission to be involved with to the next meeting. That way this is being done in an organized fashion and ahead of time, in hopes the Cultural Commission can become involved in more community events. The Statewide conference needs to be a huge focus moving forward. The Commission needs to become task oriented. Not enough is getting accomplished and at each meeting Commissioners need to bring forth what they have done, accomplished and are currently working on.

Ron: asked Beth Whisman if there was a liaison the Cultural Commission could reach out to once a month, possibly weekly, and if this was acceptable to keep communication flowing.

Beth Whisman: stated this was very much acceptable and makes great sense moving forward.

Melissa: handed out a document to show what was discussed regarding moving forward with a Conference. She explained what was discussed and sketched out possible speakers, timeframes, discussions and ideas. Then also mentioned desired attendees.

Melissa: then mentioned Commissioner's ideas are no needed to help out these ideas to paper and be able to start delegating duties and tasks. A timeframe for the conference also needs to be decided.

Kellie: Asked Carole Ringer if she could be invited to the next AART meeting to discuss this conference and the Commission's idea with the AART group. It makes more sense for her to go and discuss with the AART group, rather than to have Carole be a middle person and try to remember everything. Then Carole would have to keep going back and forth to discuss and relay information. It is way more simple and easy for Kellie to just be invited to the next AART meeting.

Beth Whisman: Asked what attendees are hoped for and who the Commission is thinking about for inviting to the Conference.

The Cultural Commission gave people, groups, and organization ideas the group has discussed up to this point.

Last Thoughts:

Angelique: The Make Music art event is happening Friday June 21st. It is a huge art event happening with a ton of art related organizations coming together in Uptown Normal. It is a big event that everyone should try to attend.

Adam Fox: gave brief history of the Make Music event and talked about some of the attendees.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned at 8:36am, 1st Melissa Libert, 2nd Angelique Racki.
Next Meeting: July 18th, @ 7:30am