

Cultural Commission Minutes: March 21st, 2019

Call to Order: Kellie Williams called the meeting to order at 7:32am

Roll Call: Kellie Williams, Ron Crick, Jeff Crabill, Meryl Brown (late 7:40am), Julia Cozad-Callighan, Angelique Racki, Mark Halx, Melissa Libert, Carole Ringer

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

Minutes Approval: Minutes of February 21st, 2019 were approved as submitted. Jeff Crabill 1st, Julia Cozad-Callighan 2nd

Staff Reports:

NO STAFF REPORTS

Discussions:

Jim passed out updated structure and governance document and Kellie explained that document would be a document within the Cultural Commission that can be amended if needed in the future as they see fit.

Ron asked where the document would end up.

Jim explained it was already posted on the City's website as a public document.

Kellie went over the document in further detail explain terms.

New Business:

Kellie asked Jim where the Council Ordinance stands.

Jim: stated Tim Gleason wants to know why the Cultural Commission is needed and why it is being presented. Tim Gleason wants more background information so he is better educated. Tim Gleason is meeting with Council members this week to discuss this information. Jim stated he would keep everyone updated next week, once he knows more.

Kellie: will send out information to all the Council members this week. She asked Jim if Tim was in favor of the Cultural District.

Jim: Tim Gleason is very fact based and just wants more information about anything he has to make big decisions on. Anything going to Council has a long process of checking boxes and moving it along up the chain.

Carole: It is hard and frustrating the people who know nothing about this project/ district are going to push back. Dollars and cents will always be a top priority to Council. However, the history of the District needs to be kept in mind.

Melissa: have we covered every ward to make sure all wards are given the information we want them to have?

Kellie: There are multiple ways to reach out. She will look and make sure all wards are accounted for, as last time they discussed wards, two were unknown.

Kellie asked Jim for an update on the Cultural Commission business cards.

Jim: Business cards are in he just forgot to bring them to this meeting and will bring to the next one for everyone.

Kellie asked the members for their committee reports.

Meryl: Bad scheduling has prevented the Online Support group from meeting. There is already a calendar out there so they decided it didn't make much sense to recreate that. So they then decided the focus should shift to a different topic.

Ann-Marie strongly suggested talking with Doug at the McLean County Art Center as he has an intern, who is also a BCPA intern who is updating and putting together a calendar.

Kellie: Marketing the Cultural District could be and should be a main focus.

Carole: we need to encourage all other committees, commissions and groups to communicate together and with one another. This Cultural Commission needs to be the central point for that to happen. This should be a big piece of the online support focus.

Meryl: until a decision with Council is made, it is kind of hard to make a start point. Once a decision is made it will help to know who the Cultural Commission should reach out to first.

Mark: would love to be a liaison to one or two other groups or Commissions to help the communication flow. He asked other members if they think they would like to do the same.

Meryl: There are too many calendars within Bloomington Normal and it gets very confusing to people who try to use them. The task of having a central location has already been established with the CVB. There does not need to be an additional calendar to create more confusion.

Carole: Most people do not have time to post on multiple calendars as it is very time consuming and confusing. A focus could be on educating the community on how to use the calendars already out there and how to post on them.

Kellie agreed educating the community on using the calendars needs to be a priority.

Meryl: There is also a generation gap. It is easier and faster for younger generations to post on social media outlets and it is harder or more difficult and time consuming for the older generation who are not so familiar with social media outlets.

Jim discussed his last place of work, where they created a central website calendar. The price it took to get that up and running was very expensive. A price tag the Cultural Commission will not have to make funding happen at this time.

Melissa: If the Cultural Commission can provide guidance and education on how to use these central websites, this would be a huge step forward.

Kellie asked where the other group was for support and advocacy. She mentioned that Carole's suggestion to support the art project for the circus was a good step forward. It was very helpful to the Commission and she asked the members to bring forth any other events or projects that they may come across in future like this.

Angelique: used this time to tell everyone about events coming up and how this is a good step for supporting the arts. There is an event that brings all walks of life together and it needs to be supported. It helps show the value of what BCI is about.

Kellie: Ron met with the Town of Normal planner to ask what they do in Cultural elements for their town and got feedback. Kellie asked him for an update.

Ron: The Normal City planner is very enthusiastic about meeting with the Cultural Commission, however the person the Commission needs to talk with is Beth Wissman, who is the Cultural Manager.

Melissa: Beth and her assistant are amazing people to reach out to.

Ann-Marie: Beth Wissman has been a great ally of the BCPA.

Ron: will set up a meeting with Kelly and Beth and try to get someone to be a Commissioner for the Cultural District.

Carole: By Law you have to be living in the City of Bloomington in order to be a Commissioner, so they would not be able to do so.

Ron: stated that a meeting with them is still a must to communicate and bring them to a meeting.

All the members agreed.

Ron: The [2040 Town of Normal Comprehensive Plan](#) is very well put together and very well done. He suggested that the Cultural District members check it out.

Kellie: Commission vacancies were noted. So hoped all members can make it to the April meeting as it will be Carole's last meeting for the District. Kellie turned in her paperwork to be re-appointed.

Kellie: Talked about a bike ride even that will be taking place in 2020. It would be a good event for the Commission to support and be able to get the Commission name out there to the community. There will be more information to come on this event as it is still a long way out.

Mark: asked what were ideas and tasks for next meeting for the members as he would like some sort of clarification and direction.

Kellie: really would like to see the Online Education group has met and will bring a focus path to the next meeting to move forward.

Mark: a list of all the art groups needs to be presented.

Ron: from last meeting it was also understood an intern was needed to prepare this list for the Commission.

Carole: has a huge list that needs to be updated but she will send this list to Kellie.

Kellie: will get emails of all the chair people from all Commissions in City of Bloomington.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned at 8:36am, 1st Julia Cozad-Callighan, 2nd Ann-Marie Dittmann
Next Meeting: April 18th, @ 7:30am