

Cultural Commission Minutes: February 21st, 2019

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

Roll Call: Kellie Williams, Ron Crick, Jeff Crabill, Meryl Brown, Jamie Mathy, Julia Cozad-Callighan, Angelique Racki, Mark Halx

Staff Attendance: Jim Mack, Samantha Stills, Cara Peterson

Minutes Approval: Minutes of January 24th, 2019 were approved as amended with minor changes to one sentence.

Staff Reports:

Jim: A great show, called Amazing Max is showing tomorrow; Friday the 22nd. It is a magic show catered toward children and young adults. Kiwanis pancake days are this weekend Saturday the 23rd, and Sunday the 24th. Miller Park has their Polar Plunge this weekend as well and it benefits a good cause. Jim went over the remainder of this year's scheduled shows for the BCPA. He mentioned attendance was strong with past few shows, so this is something we want to keep pushing for at the upcoming shows.

Discussions:

Kellie: Business card order went in and should be printed quickly. She hopes to have them by next meeting.

Angelique: Asked what the plan is for the Creativity Center this spring.

Jim: Mentioned that bids are being taken for the roof and HVAC system but work most likely will not start until August. However regardless of when work begins, work at the Creativity Center/ offices will not be interrupted.

New Business:

Kellie: stated the Mark passed around a document on the structure and governance of the Cultural Commission. She asked members to read through it and suggest any changes if need be.

Jamie: the document incorporates everything they discussed last meeting very well and he sees no issues.

Commission Internal Governance Guidelines

Kellie: Mentioned the only thing she wanted clarification on was if the Cultural Commission elects a Vice Chair and Chairperson annually. Discussion and decision to leave current language.

Commission Upcoming Vacancies

Kellie's term ends in April – she is thinking through re-applying
Carole's term also ends in April who has reached her third term and therefore has to take a year off. The group needs to think about active recruiting with Carole leaving and having spots left to fill. Kellie proposed that maybe this is something they bring forth and discuss at the Downtown Artist Group meetings. This group was very supportive of the Cultural Commission and district proposal that she discussed with them.

Ron: asked if the members could mention vacancies and recruiting to someone from the Town of Normal or other local towns.

Kellie: stated this was a great question for the group to discuss and decide on.

Angelique: systems need to be put in order first and we need to be very organized prior to reaching out to other areas. But down the road, maybe in a year when things are more put together for the Cultural Commission, then it makes sense at that time to reach out to other towns.

Mark: We are a city owned and city ran commission, so maybe it does not make sense to reach out to other towns for this Cultural Commission.

Meryl: the document was already written to say McLean County. Which means it is already opened to include other towns. There are negatives to including them yes, but there are huge positives also to bring other area opinions, ideas etc. to the Commission. These may also be connections to help the district grow.

Kellie: stated these all were very valid ideas and opinions that would need to be further discussed in future meetings.

Jeff: It may be smart to ask someone from the Town of Normal to show we are reaching out and communicating with other areas and towns.

Meryl: may be a good idea to ask someone from Town of Normal to attend a Cultural Commission meeting once a month, instead of inviting them to be a Commissioner.

Kellie: stated it would be a great idea to reach out to someone from the Town of Normal and invite them to a Cultural Commission meeting to discuss how they run their downtown and planning etc. This has been an issue that she has wanted to discuss for a while now.

Ron: mentioned he has a great connection with the Town of Normal that he can run this idea by to see what kind of information she can give him.

Jamie: Mentioned he most likely will be pulled from the Cultural Commission in the near future as he was placed on a technology commission for the City. He is not sure how soon the change will be.

Ron: asked if everyone was ok with someone not living in Bloomington being a commissioner.

Members decided it would be ok for someone living outside of Bloomington to apply to become a Commissioner.

Motion to approve the structure and governance document as submitted. Angelique 1st, Jeff Crabtrill 2nd.

Structure and Governance document was approved by all members as submitted.

Jim: asked Mark to send him an electronic copy to place the document on the City website. Jim will pass the document on to Nora in Administration to place on the Website.

Old Business:

Kellie: asked Jim to update the Commission on the City Council Proposal.

Jim: the document is still sitting in the legal department. There are a few hang-ups; one being can this document actually become a City ordinance. It is being discussed and has been rewritten more than once. It was recommended that the Commission recommend the district without it becoming an ordinance. However, Jim is pushing it to become an ordinance. Jim is not sure what the outcome will be, but he will keep updating the Commission as he hears any updates.

Jeff: asked if any other cities in Illinois have a document like this?

Jim: Responded with no, and said this is most of why this document is an issue. No one else has really ever proposed this type of ordinance. There is so much more you can do with an ordinance and not just a document.

Kellie: explained why an ordinance is better than just a document designation.

Jim: the proposed document has been changed many times and does not look anything like what the group approved and saw prior to passing it up the chain to Legal Department.

Jeff: will the group be able to see and approve the new document before it goes to Council, since they have no idea what it says and looks like now?

Jim: the proposal will be shown to the group again prior to going in front of Council.

Kellie: Asked committees to report

Meryl: the online group has made a plan to meet and asked for clarification on what exactly the online group is supposed to be locking in on.

Jamie: his thoughts were that the first steps will be small because finding artists in itself will be a process. Who are artists, what is their art about etc. Then making a form for artists to fill out. First steps would be to start drawing research and making list.

Ron & Jamie: both mentioned wanting to get an intern to help them find exactly the information Jamie mentioned above.

Angelique: the support and advocacy group tried to set a date to meet but it never worked out. She suggested creating a working document on google docs and working with the group this way.

Kellie: When it comes to support and Advocacy we need to talk about liaisons then locating and finding those liaisons.

Jamie: mentioned an art project that is going up in county parking lot on Washington and East Streets. The Pantagraph picked this story up. It will be a cultural, historical plaque honoring the Circus. Jamie stated he was speaking for Carole, who could not be in attendance, who mentioned the Cultural Commission making a statement in support of this art piece.

Kellie: will send out email to all Commissioners to vote on this art piece support idea and will pass the results on to Jim.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned at 8:31am, 1st Jamie Mathy, 2nd Meryl Brown
Next Meeting: March 21st @ 7:30am