

Cultural Commission Minutes: December 13th, 2018

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

Roll Call: Kellie Williams, Ron Crick, Angelique Racki, Meryl Brown, Jesse Smart, Julia Cozad-Callighan, Jeff Crabill, Carole Ringer

Staff Attendance: Jim Mack, Samantha Stills

Minutes Approval: Minutes of November 8th, 2018 approved and passed as submitted; 1st Jeff Crabtrill, 2nd Ron Crick

Staff Reports (Jim)

- BCPA is about 15% above our budgeted report.
- The New Year starts off with Dave Rudolf's Adult Beach Party on January 12th. Followed by Swan Lake Ballet, which is a huge production on January 19th.
- April 1st starts phase one of the Creativity Center improvements. New roof and HVAC is on order and the City is considering solar panels.
- Within the handout packet there is a new person info sheet. Melissa Libert will be joining the Cultural Commission. She will be appointed next Monday by the City Mayor and will be at the next Cultural Commission Meeting in January.

New Business

Kellie: presented Jim to update the group on the proposal to go before City Council.

Jim: Asked the group to think about whether as a group they want the proposal to become an ordinance and adopted into the City Code or does the group just want Council to recognize the Cultural District boundaries. The proposal he is to present to Council it is written in a way that lets council recognize the cultural district boundaries and that it also becomes a City ordinance. This will give an official stamp within the City. Everything in the proposal is straight forward and can be found within the past Cultural Commission minutes. Jim asked all the members to take a look at the proposal and send Kellie any changes, thoughts, ideas that they would like to see added or fixed. Once Kellie and Jim get these changes and fixes from the members, he can prepare the final draft that can be presented to Council.

Jeff: Asked why the group would want the proposal to be recognized vs becoming an ordinance.

Jim: When the proposal becomes an ordinance it helps make things in future become easier in terms of the Cultural District. When it is more official it will help more signs be put up more easily in the future. There is more weight behind an ordinance.

Jim: The proposal is set to go before Council at the end of January. Kellie and Jim will be the ones to present it to Council.

Jeff: Stressed that the Cultural Commission needs to be very prepared to answer all questions with ease and knowledge. It would be best if as many members as possible could be there at the Council Meeting to help and also discuss if need be.

Jeff: Asked if there would be any future costs other than signs being put up.

Kellie: We do not want to incur other costs. The Cultural Commission can recommend future signs.

Carole: Asked if any plans have been made to educate artists, businesses, etc. so they know what the Cultural Commission plan is and what they will be presenting to Council.

Jim: Educating the community and local artists or businesses is a very important and needed step in order to take this proposal to Council. There will be reach outs and educating the community prior to presenting this proposal to Council.

Carole: Asked how the District will be run and what the execution will be.

Kellie: There are no current funds to help the Cultural Commission. The Cultural Commission would recommend ideas, but in terms of running the district, nothing is known yet. The Ordinance will need to be finalized first and foremost. The Cultural Commission will need to establish itself and show the community and Council what the group is and what the group is capable of first.

Carole: Voiced that she is not in favor of the Cultural Commission being in charge of running the Cultural District.

Jim: Stated it is not unheard of for a director to be hired for running a Cultural District, but at this time, it is not the next step or in the works.

Kellie: Thanked Jim for preparing this proposal and doing all the research. She asked the members within the next week to send her anything that needs to be changed or tweaked within the proposal. Then she will send all that information on to Jim to finalize the proposal.

Kellie: Doug Johnson with the McLean County Arts Center met with her and he mentioned he would love to have a Cultural Commission member come to the AART meetings round table. Kellie said they would make this happen and would love for someone to attend. The Arts Center is a cultural anchor and she let him know she would be in communication with him on when the proposal will go before Council as he would like to attend and be there in support of the proposal. He liked the map of the district he was shown.

Kellie: met with the Downtown artists. Brian Simpson tries his best to keep this group and meetings moving forward. The Cultural Commission could possibly help him get more momentum and energy for these meetings to get more awareness and more attendance. There were only 6 people there. All of the six people liked the map that was presented to them of the Cultural District boundaries. They were all in support. They wanted to be more engaged and to help the Cultural Commission out in any way they could moving forward. Kellie encouraged them to apply to be a member of the Cultural Commission. They had great suggestions for the group that will be taken into consideration.

Kellie: Also at this meeting, Kellie mentioned to the group that she would like artists to come be in attendance, for a voice of support, when this goes before Council. The artists said they would engage their peers to do this as they were in great support of this proposal moving forward.

Kellie: While she attended these meetings above she realized there was no real information that she could leave with these groups to inform them better of the Cultural Commission and what its vision was etc. However, public outreach is very much needed. Nora in the City Administration office was asked if an email could be created for the Cultural Commission. Nora said it would be a good time as the City just switched email systems to Office 365 and so it would be easy to do this. Nora said she would get back to Kellie with more information on this in the near future.

Jim: Mentioned looking into business cards and stated it should not be a problem to get business cards made for the members of the Cultural Commission.

Meryl: More generic fill in type business cards would be best so that each member can write their own name in and establish relationships with whom they are talking to.

Jim: Mentioned also speaking with the City IT department about the email being set up to see if it can be pushed along faster.

Other Business

Kellie: Looked at areas of interest that each Member sent to her and made the following assignments:

- Support and Advocacy
 - Angelique Racki, Carole Ringer, Jamie Mathy, Jesse Smart, Julia Cozad-Callighan, Kellie Williams, Melissa Libert
- Central online will need to be started with baby steps
 - Jeff Crabill, Meryl Brown
 - ~What research do we need to do for reach outs and public education?
- Governance
 - Ron Crick, Mark Halx

These three areas will be the Cultural Commission's concentration for starting 2019 out and moving forward into the new year.

Ron Crick has volunteered to be the Cultural Commission Vice-Chair.

Group discussed and decided due to holidays to cancel the December 27th meeting.

Motion to cancel the December 27th meeting was made by Jeff Crabill (1st) and Carole Ringer (2nd).

Jim: The quicker the feedback is received from members the quicker the final proposal document can get placed on the Council's agenda. The plan is for end of January to present to Council.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned at 8:30am, 1st Meryl Brown, 2nd Kellie Williams

Next Meeting: January 17th, 2019 7:30am