

## **Cultural Commission Meeting**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016**

Meeting began at 7:30

Meeting adjourned at 9 am

Roll Call:

Commission Present: Matt Giordano, Roger Elliott, Jessie Hinshaw, Jamie Mathy, Angelique Racki, and Mike Kerber

Staff present: Tina Salamone, Eric Veal, Ann-Marie Dittmann, David Young, Thom Rakestraw, and Erin Shannon.

Tina Salamone: Called the meeting to order.

Call for public comment, none offered.

Reports:

Tina: New CMS approved. New Season planning well underway and Season announcements will begin May 18 with the Sneak Peek Season Announcement party.

Dave Young: From the facilities stand point it is all business as usual. Mentioned that the City Council had indicated that this year there would be some emphasis on capital funding for repairs and maintenance.

Eric Veal: Mentioned that the BCPA had been the last minute venue for the City of Bloomington Staff Luncheon, which had been scheduled to take place at the Coliseum.

Ann-Marie Dittmann- School Spotlight Season concluded in March. Three Career Day appearances were given, two at Heartland Community College and one at Olympia HS. Planning for the upcoming School Spotlight series is taking place. We are in the process of crafting and sending out a survey to teachers and Home School Parents to ascertain how best to augment their curriculum with Student Spotlight programming. We are also looking into school schedules for vacation days to better serve the spotlight population. Also the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee has been convened and is making progress.

Jamie: City of Bloomington is reworking the website. It still needs design etc. This season will be using the existing site because the new site is still in the planning stages.

Tina: Season planning is well underway. There are 20 offers for events currently made, with another 60-70 inquiries on the table. Season announcement sneak peak will be made on May 18 followed by the public announcement on May 26. Tickets will go on sale in June.

Planning for the upcoming season includes more Country Music artists, more performers with readily recognizable names.

There was a lot of positive feedback following Million Dollar Quartet.

Headliners are set for Beer Fest, Chicago Farmer Band on Friday and Chris Lager Band on Saturday.

Jamie: Added that he had posted a query on Facebook about performers and performances people would like to see at the BCPA and received a lot of feedback. He will be forwarding Tina a list of artists that was generated by the query. Off the top of his head he know that Post-Modern Juke Box had generated a lot of interest.

Tina: Reading a text message from Vicki Tilton, who did not attend due to illness: There is a movement revise the focus of the cultural commission to be more wide ranging in its focus for overseeing arts in the area. There is a need for volunteers to do research on cultural arts agencies with a district wide structure for overseeing arts in a regional area, coordinating arts activities and the look and feel or arts in the region. The Cultural Commission should expand its scope for designating an official Cultural District with 2 commissioners to spearhead the research of best practices to establish an official Cultural District with the State of Illinois. Commissioners on the research committee need to ascertain how to establish such an official Cultural District here in Bloomington/Normal or McLean County. The commission needs to identify resources to incorporate a Cultural District and establish an official Cultural District here. Vicki Tilton cited Pamala Eaton's description of the "Downtown Cultural Diamond" in an article that Pamela wrote for the Pantagraph some time ago as an example of the direction that the commission should be moving. It was further suggested that the *Bring It On Bloomington* Initiative Website had some related information on its web site.

Mike Kerber will start working with the Farnsworth & Associates to identify ways to start using the money already allocated for the Creativity Centre in focused and appropriate ways. He will ascertain the best ways of using the existing money in the most advantageous way to start some of the work needed on the Creativity Center with the goal of getting the project moving and ideally generating additional interest and awareness of the plans for the Creativity Center that may garner additional attention and funding for further work on the building.

Jamie Mathy updated that the website improvements are in the planning stages and they are waiting for user input.

Vicki, via text message suggested that the Cultural Commission meetings be moved to a more central downtown Bloomington location in the cultural district at large, perhaps the McLean Country History Museum.

Commission members began to suggest a number of shows for presentation and a general discussion of "artist as other" ensued. Matt and Jamie contributed more programming suggestions. Angelique suggested a drum corps show and a punk violinist, Tina told her we had already booked such acts for the upcoming season.

Tina announced that the head liners for the Bloomington Beer Fest had been confirmed, Kris Lager band and Chicago Farmer Band.

Tina called for the meeting to be adjourned. Matt made a motion and Angelique seconded it. Meeting Adjourned at 9 am.