

Cultural Commission Minutes: August 15th, 2019

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

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

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

Minutes Approval: Minutes of June 20, 2019 and July 18th were approved as submitted.

Public Comment

Kellie: Stated that there is a new Commissioner; Jeffrey Pitzer. His term started on August 12th and the hope is to have him be at the next Cultural Commission meeting.

Staff Reports

Ann-Marie Dittmann: The BCPA season announcement reception and sneak peek were the previous night on Wednesday August 14th. This season will be very eclectic, only a few returning artists, and a lot more dance productions. There will be two Broadway shows. There are two partnerships that are in the works with art organizations that could bring a lot of fun performances as well. Coalescence Theater is where Walking with My Ancestors is coming from.

Kellie: She asked that the Cultural Commissioners, in order to support the BCPA and show support for the Arts, to relay this information, encourage neighbors, post fliers and spread the word about the upcoming season. Having people buy tickets, in addition to being excited, is a critical thing.

Jamie: Saw Beautiful on Broadway and it is an amazing presentation. This is the show this season he is most excited for.

Ann-Marie: It is also in the works to work with other Broadway organizations for 2020 and 2021.

Jamie: Frozen 2 is the big kid item this year. All the toys, games, and merchandise that is coming out is crazy. This should be a huge upsale for the BCPA this year to present the Frozen show.

Ann-Marie: AART had a big meeting and are re-examining their bylaws and policies. Bylaws are being dissolved and they are no longer soliciting for memberships. Their focus will now turn to mentorships to artist.

On October 18th there is a collaboration with IWU and Robert Gray about marketing artwork and budgeting for artists. This will be at the Mclean County Art Center from 11am to noon. Doug, with the McLean County Art Center, has put in a bid to have 1 state conference. He has recommendation letters and will talk more about this in October at that meeting.

Old Business

Intern Update:

Kellie: Asked Jim to give an update to everyone on the Internship/ Intern from IWU.

Jim: Met with Brian Richardson, who is the internship mentor at IWU. They spoke about projects they want for the intern and Brian felt it would best be served by offering a semester long internship. Credit or non-credit would be based on how much work the Cultural Commission would have for the intern. Jim will pass out document to all commissioners emails to take a look at and sign if they approve of decided upon tasks and projects for the intern. Jim will then turn this scope of work document in to Brian. The question came up as to whom this intern would check in with etc. Jim stated emails should go to Samantha Stills, at the Cultural Commission email, and Mark was suggested as the actual person to check in with and communicate to.

Mark: Stated he would be happy to be this person, but usually there is a faculty member at IWU who would be in charge of checking in with the intern and keeping tabs for credit. Also making sure projects are getting done.

Jim: Stated the Commission should give the intern enough hours to be able to get credit he felt. 160 hours are needed to get credit. Since this would be an unpaid internship it is nice to at least be able to provide credit to the intern.

Ron: Asked if the intern could be loaned out to other local businesses to get required hours.

Ann-Marie: Stated with the Artgasm gala coming up, there are more than plenty of hours to give an intern. Cara needs help to get things in order for this event in October.

Kellie: Stated there is also the Art Conference for the Cultural Commission in November that the intern will be helping with.

Jamie: said that while it is great to have intern finding art organizations, the Commission also needs the intern to find individual artists in the area.

Mark: Asked if the intern would come to the Cultural Commission meetings to communicate with everyone. And would the intern then use the BCPA office to work and help with projects and documentation?

Jim: Confirmed this is what the intern would do.

Ron: Asked if the Commissioners envisioned this compiling of organizations to be a huge network in the sense of you have to start by talking with individuals and create networks, connections and then new relationships.

Kellie: It will be a tedious task, but Cultural Commissioners will also be networking and helping.

Angelique: Asked if an online directory of organizations needed?

Kellie: Stated while a good idea, it would compete with the Convention and Tourism Bureau's calendar and WGLT's online calendar, neither of which would want to give that up.

Jim: Stated he would send out a document to all members by late afternoon.

Cultural Arts Conference:

Kellie: Cultural Commission needs to get notification of Art Conference out to as many people as possible by the first week of September; flier, postcard, mailer, etc. The BCPA is offering the ballroom for use at no charge. Nightshop had a ton of tables and chairs and would be a great place for this type of after lunch happy hour event. Melissa is going to reach out to them to see if they would allow such an event.

Kellie: There needs to be about 3 ½ hours of information / presentation materials. There was way more ideas given by Commissioners, so it will all need to be condensed down. Content discussions need to occur so the Commission can create a prioritizing meeting to get content narrowed down.

Jamie: Presentation and how arts and economics work hand in hand together. Presentation of business of art and how to manage their business to take art to the next level.

Meryl: Stated she had attended Lunch and Learns where they split up tables into different areas of interest. People could then choose what they want to learn about. She recommended this idea with about 5 different topic tables.

Mark: Asked if people choose what table to go to or is it set up so they have to go to every table.

Meryl: Explained how her Lunch and Learns worked to get interaction at every table.

Ron: Asked if it would be interesting to have a big corporation come talk about why they chose the City of Bloomington for their business? Why Bloomington is important and how to make a business work here. These types of speakers need to be booked and scheduled now if the Commission expects them to be able to attend and speak at this Conference in November.

Kellie: Mentioned she would like to see (What support and help from the Commission would you like to see) as a topic of discussion.

Angelique: Would like to see (What are the organization's or individual's visions for what the art community would look like in the far future 2025).

Kellie: Will be meeting with Melissa to put the event together but will need to have as much input as possible from the Commissioners.

Kellie: Sign-meup.com can feed into the Cultural Commission email box, so this is a site that needs to be checked out. Samantha Stills was asked to look into this.

Mark: How does the lunch and drinks work? Can the BCPA provide the drinks?

Jim: Stated that at 4:15pm the BCPA could open a cash bar where wine and drinks could be sold.

Mark: Stated it made way more sense to keep the event all together and not have to leave to go elsewhere for drinks.

Kellie: Handed out to all organization lists to each Commissioner to confirm that organization is still in business, identify owner/manager/director and a good contact email by next meeting.

Ron: Asked how many people are planned to be invited to the Conference.

Kellie: Stated 50- 60 as 100 is probably too many.

Melissa: Does not think we necessarily need to have Mayor or City manager come speak at the event. This is the Cultural Commission's vision and event. These higher ups could be invited and attend, but have no formal duties for the event.

Ron: Asked if we invite the legislators.

Melissa/Meryl: Both stated no. This is a Cultural Commission event and focus should be on the gathering information around the Cultural Commission's vision.

Ann-Marie: If there are more than 10 people at a table at one time it will feel too crowded. So maybe for 60 people there needs to be 6 or 7 different tables.

Mark: Would every individual visit each table?

Kellie: It would depend on how many people RSVP and attend. It can be laid out multiple ways and will be figured out once the Commission knows how many people will be attending.

Kellie: Stated her, Mellissa and Jim will put together an agenda for the Commissioners.

Ann-Marie: Suggested looking at sororities and fraternities as sometimes they have a person or people available to help out for credit hours.

Kellie: Asked if the Commissioners could all meet for a special meeting on Wednesday August 28th at 7:30 am in which just Conference planning will be topic of discussion.

Enough members said yes, so a special meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28th at 7:30am at the Creativity Center.

Meeting Adjourned:
Adjourned at 8:30am

Next Meeting:
August 28, 2019