

Minutes of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board (BCAB) Meeting

August 12, 2015

Meeting Called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Terry Leavitt-Chavez with a quorum.

Board members present: Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Jacquelyn Quick, Jennifer Hawes, Jane Williams, Lisa Risoli.

Others present: Gus Pappas, City Council Liaison, Diane White, Asst. City Manager, Staff Liaison; Anat Ronen (Urban Artist), David Montague (candidate for City Council, position 6)

Board members absent: Andy Williamson

II. Action Item:

Adoption of Minutes - Last month's minutes were approved (proposed by Lisa Risoli and seconded by Jennifer Hawes and the board approved unanimously).

III. Forum For Comments:

David Montague introduced himself as a candidate for City Council, position 6

IV. Business Items:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION ON

- **A. Utility boxes;** Chair – Terry Leavitt-Chavez introduced Anat Ronen, an urban artist/muralist who was commissioned to provide artwork for certain utility boxes as part of the city of Houston utility box art program. She explained the program and showed photos of her completed utility boxes. The city program includes funding for 31 utility box murals, which is underway. Anat's portfolio of art includes large and small scale projects locally, nationally and internationally. She explained the painting process which includes a base prime coat, latex paint and a recommended final clear coat. The clear coat is washable in the event that graffiti is applied to the box. She estimated her fee to paint a single box would be an \$800 artist fee and an additional \$200 for supplies. The artwork could be completed in one day. If interested in engaging her, she would provide several mock-ups for the cultural arts board to consider. She does not have an exclusive contract with the City of Houston. Anat was dismissed so that the board could discuss next steps.

Diane White advised that approval would be needed by City Council to implement a pilot program. **A motion was made by Jane Williams to seek approval from City Council for a pilot program to include the painting of a single utility box at the corner of South Rice and Bellaire by the metro exchange (and across the street from Paseo Park). The motion was seconded by Jennifer Hawes and approved unanimously.** Gus Pappas said he would support the motion in the Council meeting.

- **B. Board Training Comments** - Diane White reported the successful completion of Board training on July 30. Diane requested that new board member, Jane Williams, contact her to arrange for a make-up session.
- **C. Discussion – Artist Database** - Diane White reported that she had made the form changes that were suggested by Terry Leavitt-Chavez and Jane Williams. She asked for input for an additional question regarding volunteerism that Jane Williams had suggested and all board members agreed to add the question. Diane will publish the updated final form on the website.
- **D. Discussion Seasonal Banner Proposal in FY 2015 Proposed Budget** Diane White informed the Board that the new City budget included a line item for "seasonal banners" which the Board would have the responsibility of designing/facilitating. A budget of \$ 16,000 is programmed for 2016 [for 21 locations] and it is scheduled to go before Council on September 14th. Diane will recirculate the banner budget to all board members.
- **E. Discussion Evelyn's Park Metro Locations** - Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that the Evelyn's Park Commission was interested in possibly incorporating artwork on the two Metro locations near the park, however, there presently are no funds available due to the building start-up costs for the park. This idea will be tabled for a future discussion.
- **F. Discussion Recycles Fest Art Contest on November 7** - Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that West University will not be co-participating this year. It was also decided that the art prizes would be limited to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards in pre-determined categories. There will be no participation awards. This year the Lights of Bellaire girls (ages 6 – 13) will man the booth and the BCAB will be the art judges. Terry discussed various ways to guard the artwork from weather elements such as wind and rain. Terry also discussed where to place the art booth so that it will be best seen by the festival participants. Jacquelyn Quick volunteered to create a listing of area schools to solicit participation in the art contest. Board members will divide the list up and send fliers to each school's art department. Last year approximately 50 people entered the contest.

V. New Business / August Agenda Items

None at this time.

VI. Comments from Board Members

Terry Leavitt-Chavez urged everyone to attend the Parks & Recreation Dive-In movie night on Friday, July 15 at the Bellaire pool. The entrance fee is \$15 per person, which is inclusive of food, drinks and movie (Raiders of the Lost Ark). Proceeds will benefit the Parks & Recreation department.

VII. Adjournment - Call to close (Jennifer Hawes), motion seconded (Jacquelyn Quick) and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jane Williams, Next Meeting: September 9, 2015