

Minutes of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board (BCAB) Meeting

Mar 11, 2015

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

Board members present: Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Stephanie Goldfield, Jennifer Hawes, Andy Williamson, Jacqueline Quick, Lisa Risoli, Gus Pappas and Cheryl Bright-West (in Diane White's absence).

Others present: David Rainey and four fellow Board members representing The Landing Theatre Company – see below); Sneha Bhavsar - had provided documentation on utility box art.

Board members absent: Jill Patir

II. Action Item:

Adoption of Minutes

Motion passed (Stephanie Goldfield) and seconded (Lisa Risoli) to approve adoption of minutes.

III. Forum For Comments:

- David Rainey and fellow Board members from The Landing Theatre Company attended the meeting initially. Jennifer Hawes had brought the Company to the Board's attention last month under "new business". David made a brief presentation indicating that the Company was "looking for a home" and Bellaire appeared to have the location and demographics that made it an attractive venue. David mentioned that they had looked at two properties; one on South Rice and the other near Chimney Rock / Dashwood. He mentioned some numbers related to leases but said his purpose was not to obtain funding (that was the role of some of the other people he had brought to the meeting) but more to ascertain if the BCAB could assist in providing access to the community. We thanked them for the presentation and they left before the formal proceedings began.

IV. Business Items:

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION ON

- **Utility boxes;** Vice Chair - Stephanie Goldfield led the discussion to determine the way forward in planning and implementing the process for utility box artwork. It was felt that the earliest the boxes could be "painted" was May 2016. This accounted for i) approval by the City Council (projected May / June 2015 meeting); ii) passing of extreme seasons (Summer / Winter); iii) finalizing of documentation and approval by various Departments iv) advertising for artists (local only), and v) obtaining and vetting the artists / artwork. We reviewed some draft documents and determined that all needed to be reviewed (either from a legal or an operational perspective). Gus Pappas agreed to take a look at the "Consent, License and Liability Agreements" and pass all the documentation through the City Attorney. Likewise, Cheryl Bright-West said she would consult with Public Works / City Manager about some of the operational and cost issues

(eg. How much paint would be required to paint a utility box?; how much does the paint cost?, how long would it last? and would / should a box need to be "prepped" before / after painting?). After much discussion it was decided that there should be a dual theme to the art, representing either "our city" and / or having a "green" / nature theme. To the extent possible, artists should fund the project themselves. However we would investigate whether any pre-preparation would assist [and could be done by Public Works] and / or whether any protective coating subsequent to painting could be done by the City. To the extent that the City would incur costs to paint such boxes, it may be able to assist in the funding [of paint supplies etc]. Jennifer Hawes also suggested that we call The Texas Commission for the Arts to see if any funding could be available from that source. Some discussion surrounded the application process. We wanted to maintain the maximum flexibility of allocating which design / artist to which box. While we hope to accommodate artists' desires as much as possible [and their preferences will be taken into account] we clearly cannot have a situation where *all* artists only want to paint the largest box! Cheryl Bright-West said she would investigate the process of submitting applications on-line [through the City web-site] as well as hard-copy. She would also check out the subject of electronic signature.

V. New Business- The Board decided that it was appropriate to place the The Landing Theatre Company on the agenda for next month's meeting to determine exactly how we might / can help them. Cheryl Bright-West indicated that they might wish to perform on the open-air stage in the park as a starting point to gain some exposure in Bellaire. [Such arrangement is not subject to BCAB].

Jennifer Hawes wondered how much influence BCAB had on "design guidelines" in the City on a more macro level and whether this could be brought to the agenda. It was felt that this topic was likely too broad for BCAB and more the bailiwick of Planning and Zoning / Beautification or the City's "Comprehensive Plan".

VI. Comments from Board Members

VII. Adjournment-Call to close (Jackie Quick), motion seconded (Andy Williamson). Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.