

## Minutes of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board (BCAB) Meeting

Apr 8, 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, and Lisa Risoli,

**Others present:** Staff Liaison – Assistant City Manager Diane K. White

**Board members absent:** Gus Pappas, Jill Patir

### II. Action Item:

#### Adoption of Minutes

Last month's minutes were approved with a minor amendment to the visiting members from The Landing Company (proposed by Stephanie Goldfield and seconded by Terry Leavitt-Chavez).

### III. Forum For Comments:

- None.

### IV. Business Items:

#### A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION ON

- **Utility boxes;** Vice Chair - Stephanie Goldfield had started to prepare a "working draft" of a document to be used as the basis for the utility box mural program. This facilitated a more detailed discussion on certain areas and exposed a lack of technical / operational knowledge by the Board on such things as....how big is the cost difference between paint and wraps?; Is paint easier to maintain than wraps?; what exactly is a wrap? As a result of this discussion, it became known that the City of Houston was launching its own utility box beautification project imminently and that it was likely that City Manager, Brant Gary had a good insight into the program. Diane White suggested that, notwithstanding the "draft" nature of Stephanie Goldfield's work, it should be forwarded to Mr. Gary for his input and expertise at this early stage. Ms. Goldfield agreed that it could be forwarded, marked as "draft". It was also suggested that Mr. Gary be invited to a future meeting or that a separate meeting be arranged with him to understand better the maintenance issues associated with the utility boxes. Apparently the "art benches" located at the baseball field have not weathered well. On the subject of funding, Jennifer Hawes mentioned that she had followed up with Texas Commission for the Arts in Austin to assess if any funding was available. They had responded that Cities are generally NOT eligible for funding unless they have a separate Art Dept. with employees etc. Ms. Hawes stated that she had still not given up in her search for some kind of outside funding. Generally, the Board fully understands that any project will need mostly to be self-funded. There needs to be a "recognition program" and / or some kind of media event to give artists visibility / publicity. For clarity, it was again stated that the six City-owned utility boxes would be the

first decorated in this process.....as a second stage, boxes owned by the utilities may be added and possibly there could be some kind of sponsorship [by the utility companies] for those. Lastly Diane White felt that provided that the project was not going to require any funding and provided the City Manager was "on-side" [and bearing in mind that this was in-line with the City's broader "beautification" strategy], it likely would not need to go to City Council for final approval. On this basis Stephanie Goldfield suggested that a deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup> be set for entries to be received.

- **Metro Bus Shelters;** Chair - Terry Leavitt-Chavez asked that we obtain a map of all Metro bus shelters in Bellaire. Diane White will take care of this for our next meeting.
- **The Landing Theatre Company;** Chair – Terry Leavitt-Chavez sought feedback from their brief presentation last month. The comments were mostly supportive but there were different views on exactly what the Company was seeking in approaching BCAB. It was agreed unanimously that it was not our role to assist in finding / securing a property in the City for any entity. If they were seeking to engage the community, it was felt that a good starting point would be a "kid-friendly" performance in one of the public areas in Bellaire (Great Lawn or Gazibo) or in the Pavilion or on a school / City Hall stage. Chair – Terry Leavitt-Chavez suggested that Cheryl Bright-West [as coordinator for the Pavilion bookings] reach out to David Rainey with this suggestion.
- **Artist Data-Base / Registry;** Chair – Terry Leavitt-Chavez presented a draft document which comprehensively detailed the application process and the categories for the registry. It was suggested that "tattoo artist" be replaced by "sketch artist". Some discussion surrounded the process for "approval" and ensuring that only "appropriate" material is viewable. Diane White assured us that submissions and their content would only be viewable by her before approval [by the Board] and posting on a sub-section of the City's web-site once approved.

**V. New Business-** None.

**VI. Comments from Board Members**

**VII. Adjournment - Call to close (Jackie Quick), motion seconded (Lisa Risoli). Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.**