

Minutes of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board (BCAB) Meeting

November 4, 2015

I. Action Item:

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

Board members present: Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Andy Williamson, Lisa Risoli, Jane Williams, Jennifer Hawes and Anita Mehta.

Others present: Diane White - Asst. City Manager, Staff Liaison; Robert Riquelmy – mayoral candidate.

Board members absent: Jacquelyn Quick. Also Gus Pappas, City Council Liaison.

II. Action Item:

Adoption of Minutes - Last month's minutes were approved, subject to small amendments (motion proposed by Lisa Risoli and seconded by Jane Williams and the Board approved unanimously).

III. Forum For Comments:

Robert Riquelmy attended briefly but had no comments.

IV. Business Items:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION ON

- **A. Utility Box Art Program;** Chair – Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that the City Council had approved the first of the utility box art projects. She had observed the neighborhood around the location in Paseo Park and felt that [knock-out] "roses" would be an appropriate design. She handed out a graphic of how it might look. Her choice was based upon observing the neighborhood – 1) there are many roses in the yards around Bellaire / Bissonnet Blvds; 2) the rose is indeed a native Texas plant; and 3) the design would be vibrant and eye-catching (but also fit in with the environment). Terry Leavitt-Chavez mentioned that she received an e-mail from the Nature Discovery Center (Anne Eisner and Ann Beauchemin) suggesting a number of wild flowers that might be the subject of utility box artwork. These were considered by the Board but Terry Leavitt-Chavez felt (and the Board agreed) that for this location, the rose design was most appropriate. Other wild flowers might be used for future designs if the project is extended beyond the initial box. It was agreed that Terry Leavitt-Chavez would reach out to Anat Ronen, the artist who had already presented to the Board on this subject to offer her the opportunity to provide a rendering of the first image [of roses] to be painted on the Paseo Park box. Terry Leavitt-Chavez would discuss details of price (no more than \$ 1,000); dimensions; (all four sides = 66 X 30 X 24); and prep / sealing of box. A suitable contract / indemnity will need to be signed and Diane White agreed to check if one was available and run by the City Attorney. The Board delegated authority to three members (Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Jane Williams and Andy Williamson) to review and approve the rendering. It is planned to have the utility box painted during the winter break. The Board discussed how feedback might be received. It

was felt that we would likely be sought out for very favorable [or unfavorable] comment. Jennifer Hawes wondered if there could be somewhere on-line where opinions could be given - on the City web-site for example. Terry Leavitt-Chavez and Diane White talked about publicity given to the artist and perhaps a ribbon-cutting ceremony with media coverage. The Board will likely be able to gauge the public reception from feedback to these events.

- **B. Recycle-Fest = Earth Art and Photo Contest** - Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that she had run a "splatter art" class on recycled shoe boxes at Condit last week with first-graders. There would be about 24 entries from this at recycle-fest and likely double or more from another art class and a project by the Lights group. The Board discussed some of the logistics for the event on Saturday 7th, 2015. Assuming the event will not be cancelled by the weather (decision to be communicated by Thursday evening), members are to report by 8 - 8:15 to set up. Andy Williamson will get some supplies from Home Depot and bring coffee / doughnuts; also a supply of bulldog clips to hang art. Jacquelyn Quick had undertaken to do a sign / poster (Andy Williamson to remind her) and Terry Leavitt-Chavez to get scissors and other supplies. All members to bring some recycle material for artwork on the day. Jane Williams circulated some pictures of "tire art" which was well-received by the Board. It included decorated / painted tires made into tables, planters, dog beds etc. She undertook to obtain 6 tires from Bellaire Automotive for decoration at the event on Saturday. Terry Leavitt-Chavez or Diane White will organize obtaining the left-over paint from the Evelyn's Park picket fence project.
- **C. Holiday in the Park** - The Board felt that the traditional "scratch-off" art would be appropriate for the Holiday in the Park program this year - and it should be arranged through Parks & Recreation.
- **D. Art Inventory** - Jane Williams provided a printout sample of some software that could be used to manage an inventory listing of the City's art work. It included detail such as "title", "artist", "subject", "date acquired" and "location" etc. There are many good reasons to keep tabs on the artwork within the City including, insurance, loss prevention and maintenance. It is unclear at the moment whether or if such a listing exists and how it is administered. Diane White undertook to find out whether the City's new "fixed asset" software could be used to keep such data so as not to have to buy a separate package.
- **E. New Facilities Art** - Diane White gave a brief up-date on the status of the new municipal campus facilities in Bellaire. In fact they are still a way off with tentative schedule of 1) elevation decision by January, 2016; 2) bond election in February, 2016 and 3) ground-breaking in May, 2016. General discussion occurred regarding budget [or lack thereof] for art projects in the City. Mention was made that when in Austin, John Munday had reported that all City capital projects had 1% of the total allocated to artwork. Anita Mehta suggested organizing an art auction whereby local artists' work could be used to raise money. Regarding fund raising, it was suggested that we might link up with another Board (Beautification, Conservancy or the Trolley Run) to show some local artists work or organize an "art walk" -

although the comment was made that Bellaire is not a very walkable city. At this stage Diane White referred to the BCAB Master Plan and undertook to send a copy to members for their reference.

V. New Business / December Agenda Items

- Art walk
- Annual report; for inclusion in State of the City

VI. Comments from Board Members

Diane White mentioned that the Art Registry was ready to "go live" and she would make it public tomorrow.

VII. Adjournment - Motion to close (Jane Williams), seconded (Anita Mehta) and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Williamson

Next Meeting: December 9, 2015