

Minutes of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board (BCAB) Meeting

February 8, 2017

I. Action Item:

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Andy Williamson with a quorum.

Board members present: Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Andy Williamson, Jane Williams, Diane Roberts, Jacquelyn Quick, Sneha Bhavsar and Shampa Mukerji.

Others present: Diane White, Asst. City Manager, Michael Fife, City Council Liaison. Michelle Jordan, Project Manager, City of Bellaire for the new City Hall project. Jeff Gerber and another representative from PGAL. Robert Riquelmy and Lynn McBee.

Board members absent: None.

II. Action Item:

- A. Adoption of Minutes dated January 11, 2017 were approved without change (motion proposed by Andy Williamson and seconded by Jacquelyn Quick and the Board approved unanimously).

III. Forum for Public Comments:

Robert Riquelmy stated that "art" input into the new City Hall Building is important. He specifically mentioned mosaic on the floor as an example. He also commented that performance art should not be neglected and suggested that it be included, for example, at the swearing-in ceremonies [of City Council and new mayors], possibly with the inclusion of a string quartet at such functions. He also commented on the lack of artwork on the walls of the Council Chamber.

Lynn McBee spoke, representing herself and the Bellaire Historical Society [BHS]. She stated that both BHS and she personally would be donating artwork to the City of Bellaire for display in the new municipal buildings. The two items from BHS are both framed images [to be formally donated in August]. The items presented by Ms. McBee included i) a picture of the Bellaire street car, ii) a poster reproduction advertising the original sale of lots in the city [1910 – 11], iii) a "sketch" dating from 1977 when five council members of Bellaire were recalled following a citizens' "uprising" and iv) six sketches from the Bellaire Beacon (which are not yet framed). It is understood that part of the new City Hall is being reserved for the display of historical items.

IV. Business Items:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION ON

- Ø **A. Introduction of new Board members** - Chair – Terry Leavitt-Chavez summarized her presentation to the City Council of the Annual Report. She welcomed the introduction of the two new Board members, Sneha Bhavsar and Shampa Mukerji.
- Ø **B. Position Elections** - A motion was slated by Jacquelyn Quick and seconded by Andy Williamson to elect Jane Williams as Vice-Chair and Sneha Bhavsar as Assistant Secretary (unanimously carried by BCAB).
- Ø **C. Utility Boxes**; Chair - Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that she had artists in mind who could fulfill a butterfly or water-scene design on the utility box

at the intersection of Bellaire Blvd and Bissonnet St. A motion was proposed by Jacquelyn Quick, seconded by Jane Williams and unanimously approved by BACB to seek a rendering from an appropriate artist to paint a [Monarch] butterfly design whose wings may "wrap" around the side of the box, with a sunrise / sunset background.

- Ø **D. Input on Art for Municipal Facilities** – Jeff Gerber was introduced from PGAL, architects on the new City Hall facilities. Michelle Jordan, project manager from the City of Bellaire added some comments. Firstly they wanted to point out that 95% of the design is complete and the goal is to have bids for the base building in the next few weeks. Ground breaking is scheduled for June / July with completion in 18 – 20 months. In view of this time-line, they pointed out that any "physical" changes (such as inset spaces) would need to be suggested and approved in the very short term = few weeks; anything related to lighting probably had a medium term deadline.....whereas location of artwork etc. can clearly be finalized closer to completion as it has [little] impact on project design. Michelle Jordan / Diane White will co-ordinate with Jane Williams / Jacquelyn Quick who have been compiling the City-wide art inventory to ensure that all parties are aware of what is available for display.

Jeff Gerber presented the different elevations and views on the proposed buildings and pointed out items that had already been ear-marked. For example, four 4' 6" wide by 10' high lockable, glass cabinets with adjustable shelves had been envisaged in the main hallway. BCAB noted the location of wall-space for artwork [or lack of it].

Some discussion surrounded the incorporation of any part of the "old" within the new. In this regard BCAB will organize a "search" of the existing premises to see if there is anything suitable or not. A gathering of Board members able to attend has been tentatively arranged for noon on Tuesday 21st February at City Hall to "tour" City facilities. Ideas would include such things as i) incorporating existing brick into a mosaic on the floors, ii) incorporating the City seal into the floor [Michael Fife pointed out the pitfall of this if the seal is changed [as occurred recently in Sugar Land] and iii) incorporating any lumber from trees that do not survive the construction process, either within the structure or perhaps as furniture. Jeff Gerber pointed out the greater difficulty of accommodating the former, because the lumber would have to be treated / dried and time constraints would likely make this option [extremely] difficult.

After PGAL's presentation, BCAB discussed their initial reaction. Overall it was felt that the predominance of glass meant that there were few areas that would be suitable, for example, to display local artists' work or have a pre-lit, recessed / inset space where art could be displayed and make the open-space a little more interesting. One suggestion from Sneha Bhavsar was to take out one of the four glass cases to allow for more wall-space. As a result, **a motion was proposed by Sneha Bhavsar, seconded by Shampa Mukerji and unanimously approved by the Board to make a recommendation that a designated space be made in the new building to facilitate the temporary display of "visiting / rotating" art-work.**

Upon further discussion, it was recommended to focus the motion, proposed by Ann Williams and seconded by Shampa Mukerji and unanimously approved by the Board, to specifically ask PGAL to amend the existing plans to incorporate a specific recess / inset space within a clear wall in the public area to accommodate "temporary / visiting art".

V. New Business / March Agenda Items

- Representative from Bellaire Historical Society should address a future meeting [Randy McKinney]
- Police Chief should be invited to attend a future meeting [has specific ideas and artifacts / historical memorabilia for display]
- BCAB should start to think about what goes in display cabinets or within proposed recess / insets.

VI. Comments from Board Members

VII. Adjournment - Motion to close (Jacquelyn Quick), seconded (Jane Williams) and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Williamson

Next Meeting: March 8, 2017