

Minutes of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board (BCAB) Meeting

May 10, 2017

I. Action Item:

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Terry Leavitt-Chavez with a quorum.

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

Others present: Diane White, Asst. City Manager and Cheryl Bright. Robert Riquelmy and Kevin Newman.

Board members absent: Michael Fife, City Council, Liaison.

II. Action Item:

Adoption of Minutes. Minutes dated April 12, 2017 were approved (motion proposed by Jacquelyn Quick, seconded by Diane Roberts and approved unanimously by the Board).

III. Forum for Public Comments:

Robert Riquelmy asked the Board to consider art as it relates to the juxtaposition of power and responsibility. This will be added to the Agenda items at next month's meeting.

Kevin Newman stated that he felt that the existing banners were small and hard to read and some now in a state of dis-repair. It was noted that this item was on the Agenda for this evening.

IV. Business Items:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION ON

- **A. Seasonal Banners** – Cheryl Bright reported that it was time to refresh the "winter season" banners, some of which had suffered some damage. In answer to the public comments, size of the banners is constrained by the rules of Centerpoint who are responsible for the lamp posts. Terry Leavitt-Chavez noted that Principle Group had been appointed by the City Council to work on a city "brand" and wondered if we should wait to incorporate whatever is decided as a city brand into the banners. Discussion surrounded the cost / benefit of waiting for the outcome. In conclusion, BCAB felt that "branded" and unbranded banners could be mixed [thereby spreading the cost of unbranded banners over more than one season]. In considering a theme, BCAB recommended an extension of the wildlife theme used in the utility box program. Rather than using only one design, a combination was considered appropriate. **A motion was proposed by Jacquelyn Quick, seconded by Shampa Mukerji and unanimously approved by the Board to have the new seasonal banners substantially reflect the design and color of the recently painted utility boxes with designs of butterfly / owl / bird [the bird design to be taken from one of the birds on the Metro box].** Cheryl Bright will arrange for a photographer to take pictures of the various images from different angles and an appropriate image to be provided to the supplier. The time-frame for installation should be June / early July.

- **B. Future Cultural Arts Events** - The Board has previously discussed hosting a "cultural" event as a means of raising its profile and possibly raising some funding for internal projects. This could likely best be done in conjunction with another "entity" / event [eg. Condit International Festival] or perhaps with the City itself [Cheryl Bright outlined some 12 – 15 events the City sponsors each year]. An art festival was considered, along the lines of the one previously held in Paseo Park, organized by the former SW Houston Chamber of Commerce. Funding could be obtained through either a booth fee or ticket sales..... but this was not considered feasible to organize. After discussion, it was felt that a "cultural" concert series, in conjunction with the City, utilizing the existing stage-facilities by City Hall was the best concept. Consequently, **a motion was proposed by Shampa Mukerji, seconded by Jacquelyn Quick and unanimously approved by BCAB to plan a pilot event for the second half of 2017 in conjunction with the City, for an "international-themed" evening of music / art / food in what is intended become an "International Night" series.**
- **C. Potential FY 2018 Projects;** Terry Leavitt-Chavez stated that a location has been determined within the new municipal campus for the steel art-form to be made from 9/11- steel, donated by the Rubenstein family. At this stage funding requirements are unclear.
- **D. Branding Recap** – Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that, following the appointment of The Principle Group by City Council to advise on implementation of an appropriate "brand" for the City of Bellaire, she had passed on to them certain relevant background information. This included the "elegant theme" [Chronicle article] and National Signs entry marker project. Diane White and Cheryl Bright mentioned the Centennial markers and urban master-plan being of relevance and interest. Initial feedback from Principle Group will be at the June council meeting with a final product by October. Terry Leavitt-Chavez mentioned that fire hydrants and bus stops also offered potential branding opportunities.
- **E. Utility Box Recap** – 1) Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that the utility box at the cross-section of Bellaire and Bissonnet St. would likely be painted on the weekend. It will be a butterfly design with hibiscus background. 2) With regard to the eight utility boxes located at Newcastle / Mulberry / Bellaire [adjacent to Evelyn's Park], she advised the Board that the Conservancy had received a donation to fully fund the painting of all eight. 3) There was broad agreement to use a bird theme for the last unpainted box in Paseo Park. Terry Leavitt-Chavez asked that Board members look on-line prior to next month's meeting to determine a suitable rendering for a crane / egret / hawk theme.
- **F. Pianos on Parade Follow-up** – Terry Leavitt-Chavez reported that she had spoken with someone representing the piano art. It appears such art-form does not lend itself to the outdoors as the pianos will be damaged by rainfall / humidity. As most schools have pianos for music teaching purposes, this does not appear to be one to be pursued.
- **G. Press Coverage on Open the Door Project** – Terry Leavitt-Chavez mentioned that success of the "open door" project by the Brownies will be published in the Bellaire Buzz.

V. New Business / May Agenda Items

- Consider Robert Riquelmy's request for views on how art depicts the juxtaposition of power and responsibility.
- Review internet for renderings suitable for crane / egret / hawk theme on Paseo Park utility box.
- Consider extension of utility box program [beyond initial 5/6 boxes].

VI. Comments from Board Members

VII. Adjournment - Motion to close (Jacquelyn Quick), seconded (Terry Leavitt-Chavez) and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Williamson

Next Meeting: May 14, 2017