

Official Minutes of the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission Special Work Session

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2012

Location: Rowlett Community Centre, 5300 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Mary Drayer at 6:36 p.m. and a quorum was present.
 - Members present: Hugo Martinez, Mary Drayer, Jerry Barshop, Laqueata Brown, and Cassie Wilson.
 - Members absent: Veena Valiaveedu and Jerry Hickman.
 - City Staff present: Drew Rist, Kathy Freiheit and Brenda Kennedy.
 - Visitors present:
 - Alan Peck, meeting facilitator
 - Carl Pankratz, Council Liaison
 - Glenn Holloway speaking on behalf of Artists Round Texas
 - Jean Caudle, Rowlett resident
 - Jeff Sheldon speaking on behalf of Senior Citizens of Rowlett
 - Amanda Whittington speaking on behalf of Rowlett Community Chorale
 - Hugo Martinez speaking on behalf of Lakeshore Symphonic Winds and Rowlett Community Chorale.

- 2) Discussion only. Community interest, conceptual uses and other ideas for a City Cultural Arts Center.
 - Question: Who currently rents performance centers outside the City of Rowlett?
 - Discussion followed with Lakeshore Symphonic Winds and Rowlett Community Chorale stating their groups rent outside the City, but would rent a Cultural Arts Center if built in Rowlett.

 - Question: Would groups rent or lease a facility in Rowlett?
 - Discussion followed with Hugo Martinez stating the Lakeshore Symphonic Winds would spend money to rent a performance center in Rowlett, if it's a quality center with appropriate acoustics for musical concerts.
 - Mary Drayer commented that the dance companies were not represented at meeting, but currently the groups rent facilities out of Rowlett for performances.
 - Other comments on how a center could be used included corporate meetings, theater groups, weddings, and social events.


 - Question: How would a Cultural Arts Center be funded? Maintained?
 - Discussion followed with a suggestion that it might be included in a development, or perhaps a large company included at the beginning could be joined by others in such a venture.
 - Other suggestions included a bond election (where a center would generate revenue for the City), charging for naming rights, or starting a non-profit organization.
 - Question asked if any government grants were available; no one was aware of any.
 - Discussed ensued on how a center might not sustain itself for the first few years of operation.
 - Hugo Martinez suggested the cost for a center might be between \$36 to \$38 million.
 - Clarification was asked on the purpose of the meeting, with response that it was to gather information on citizen interest and conceptual uses for such a facility.

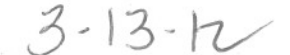
- Final discussion acknowledged the need for City Council action for any proposed Cultural Arts Center and bond election, and questioned the impact of a center on the City's budget.

3) Adjournment.

- The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Approved by the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission:


Signature


Date