



# ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION MINUTES

*Our Vision: A well-planned lakeside community of quality neighborhoods, distinctive amenities, diverse employment, and cultural charm. Rowlett: THE place to live, work and play.*

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Rowlett Public Library  
3900 Main Street

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Jeff Winget at 6:33 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.
  - *Members present: Jeff Winget, Deborah Crosby, Gary Alexander, JR. Forasteros, Kim Nurmi, Neslie Fudge (arrived at 6:39 p.m.) and Laura Keasling (arrived at 6:59 p.m.)*
  - *Members absent: Tamra Williams*
  - *Staff present: Elise Bowers, Neighborhood Life Coordinator, Kathy Freiheit, Director of Library Services and Brenda Kennedy, Senior Administrative Assistant*
  
- 2) Chair selects voting alternate(s), if necessary.
  - *Alternate Kim N. selected as voting member in Tamra W.'s absence.*
  
- 3) Citizens' Input.
  - *Kathy explained House Bill 2840 effective September 1, 2019. "The bill amends the Texas Open Meetings Act to provide that a governmental body shall allow each member of the public who desires to address the body regarding an item on an agenda for an open meeting of the body to address the body regarding the item at the meeting before or during the body's consideration of the item. Before the passage of the bill, the public had only the right to observe rather than speak at an open meeting of a governmental body."*
  - *This item will be included on all future Commission monthly agendas.*
  - *Speakers will be asked to complete a Visitor Card prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Input agenda item.*
  - *There will be a three-minute limit to speak and no action can be taken on the matter by the Commission, save for consideration as a future agenda item.*
  
- 4) Consider approving the minutes from the regular meeting held Tuesday, August 13, 2019.
  - *Motion made by Deborah C. to accept meeting minutes as written; seconded by Gary A.*
  - *Motion approved 5-0.*

Neslie Fudge arrived at 6:39 p.m.

- 5) Presentation on upcoming programs (Elise Bowers, Neighborhood Life Coordinator).
  - *Elise Bowers addressed the Commission on three upcoming Neighborhood Life department events:*
    - *Neighborhood Summit – City of Rowlett is partnering with the cities of Garland and Plano for this leadership meeting. Program is designed to "strengthen your communities, engage with your neighbors and plan for the future." Learn new ideas at this free program. Pre-conference mixer on Friday, November 8. On Saturday, November 9, bus transportation will be provided from City Hall at 7:30 a.m. (returning to City Hall 1:30 p.m.).*
    - *HOA Legal Clinic – City of Rowlett is partnering again with the Cities of Garland and Plano to host the 2020 HOA Legal Clinic. "Neighborhood representatives from both mandatory and voluntary*

groups are encouraged to attend. Speakers will include attorneys, bank representatives, community managers, and more." Scheduled Saturday, March 7, 2020.

- *Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) – "Another opportunity to get great ideas and connect with other neighborhood leaders across the United States is 'Neighborhoods USA.' There is no fee to join for neighborhood groups, HOA's and individuals. Plus, you get access to all of the great archives of information online." The Annual NUSA conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas from May 20-23, 2020. NUSA is also hosting a youth conference open to teens ages 13-18. City needs ten people to partner with Garland and Plano; bus transportation will be provided to Little Rock.*

6) Discuss participation in upcoming events:

- *"Taste of DiverCity" event on Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 11 am – 2 pm*
  - *Deborah C. will attend; Neslie F. to come for photos*
  - *Deborah will email Alena Shelbia with the Diversity and Inclusion Commission to her know the AHC will participate*
  - *Deborah will contact the Wilkersons (faculty) at Rowlett High School, asking for students with VASE (Visual Arts & Scholastic Event) artwork from the last school year who may want to participate*
  - *Deborah will have infographic cards and any available swag as giveaways for the event; Jeff W. will provide a tent*

At this point, Jeff mentioned that Tamra W. did not re-apply to serve on the Commission next year, wanting members to know they will need to "step up" and take on more responsibility if Commission vacancies are not filled when Council makes appointments in a few weeks.

- *"Scarecrows on Main Street" event, "stuffing day", Sunday, October 20, 2019 from 2 – 5 pm*
  - *Elise Bowers will have straw available on Sunday, October 20, if your scarecrow needs stuffing*
  - *Jeff W., Neslie F. and Deborah C. agreed to work on project together; Kathy reminded them of need to register online*
  - *"Bob Ross" theme suggested for this year's scarecrow*
- *"Trunk or Treat" event on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 5 – 8 pm*
  - *AHC has committed to participate; Kathy sent the challenge email requested on behalf of the AHC to other City boards and commissions, city departments and the City Council, encouraging their participation and a chance to win "Best Decorated Trunk" prize*
  - *Discussion ensued on who to ask to judge "Best Decorated Trunk"*
  - *Gary A. will contact Browning Trophy for cost to produce trophy for challenge winner; Jeff W. will register the group*
  - *May use JR.'s motorcycle with saddlebags for "trunk"*
  - *Members participating: Jeff, JR. and Catalyst Community Church; Deborah C. and daughter will do face painting; Deborah will also contact Laurieann Dygowski to ask about help with the face painting*
  - *At the next meeting, Commission will have trophy cost/details, someone to judge and will have registered online*

7. Review updates and take possible action on standing committee reports:

a) Photography Contest

- *Neslie F. took photographs of contest entries and provided them on a memory card to Kathy F.*

- All winning contestants were notified on August 26, 2019; reminder email to be sent to winners on September 23 about awards presentation at Council on Tuesday, October 15.

*b) Rowlett Artists Exchange (RAX)*

- Scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Library's café area.
- Event is posted on AHC Facebook page.
- Will be interviewing one Writing Contest winner and Deborah C. Kathy suggested videotaping the interviews; Neslie F. will take photos.
- JR. has not received a definite answer from Book Club Café about catering pastries and non-alcoholic beverages for the event; he will go to Rockwall location on Thursday, September 12 to discuss with owner. Kathy will reserve the Library café area for the event.
- Attendees will be asked to register to for a gift card prize drawing which will be used as an email distribution list for future Exchange meetings.
- Members planning to attend: JR., Neslie F., Kim N., Jeff W. and Deborah C.

*c) Publicity*

- JR. will send Rowlett Artist Exchange information to Denise Perrin and Drew Rist for inclusion in City social media and publicity.

8) Update on FY2020 budgets.

- Kathy gave an update to Commission on FY2020 budget requests:
  - Operating – City Manager did not recommend an operating budget increase
  - Public Arts – City Manager recommended funding at \$50,000, with \$10,000 of that amount designated for public art maintenance
- Council consensus was to budget \$10,000 for sculpture maintenance in FY2020; operating budget to remain the same at \$13,500.
- Council will vote to approve the FY2020 budget at their meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

9) Discuss and take possible action on future public art projects:

- Jeff W. and Council liaison Martha Brown discussed a possible public art sharing program; she has contacts in Dallas. Also discussed the Texas Commission on the Arts and grants availability. Kathy noted that the City has hired a part-time grant writer.
- Kathy shared information and photo provided by Parks and Recreation Director Angie Smith on a "55-gallon trash can" art challenge recently held in the City of Boerne; discussion ensued.
- Bronze Conservation Services will be on-site Thursday, September 12 to clean, wax and polish the sculpture at the Rowlett Community Centre.

10) Discuss possible dates for FY2020 Boot Camp planning work session.

- Kathy offered possible dates and, following discussion, decision made to meet on Saturday, October 19. Will be held in the library's class/board room from 8 am to 1 pm.
- Jeff W. will send out refreshments sign-up list.

11) Public Announcements.

- Kathy announced she received word from Parks Board member Mike DeLatte on creation of a 501(c)(3) organization. Filing process has taken longer than expected; he anticipates filing process will be complete by early 2020.
- Kathy asked Commission members to "save the date" on Wednesday, October 16, to participate in the City's Facilities Needs Assessment project Stakeholder Focus Groups. Two sessions will be held, at 1 pm or 6:30 pm; Commission's input is needed.

- *Jeff W. announced formation of the Complete Count Commission, a City group whose charge is to encourage everyone to complete the census this year.*
- *Neslie F. announced Nita Pearson Elementary School's new initiative to help students with behavioral problems; students spend 30 minutes every other Friday morning with adult volunteers.*

12) Future topics.

- *Call to order*
- *Chair selects voting alternate(s), if necessary*
- *Citizens' Input*
- *Around the table introductions by members (if needed)*
- *Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for FY2020*
- *Consider approving minutes from previous meeting*
- *Recap on "Taste of DiverCity" event on Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.*
- *Discuss participation in upcoming events:*
  - a) *"Scarecrows on Main Street" event, "stuffing day" on Sunday, October 20, 2019, from 2-5 p.m.*
  - b) *"Trunk or Treat" event on Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 5-8 p.m.*
- *Rowlett Chamber of Commerce's "Taste and Trade" event on Monday, November 4, 2019, from 5:30 – 8 p.m.*
- *Review updates and take possible action on standing committee reports:*
  - a) *Recap Photography Contest*
  - b) *Recap Rowlett Artists Exchange*
  - c) *Calendar*
  - d) *Grants*
    - i. *Cultural Arts Grant*
    - ii. *Arts in Education Grant*
  - e) *Publicity*
- *Update on FY2020 budget*
- *Discuss current and future public art projects*
- *Reminder of Boot Camp on Saturday October 19*
  - i. *Review and add agenda items for discussion during Boot Camp*
- *Public announcements*
- *Future agenda items*
- *Adjourn*

13) Adjournment

- *Chair Jeff Winget adjourned meeting at 7:55 p.m.*

Approved by the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission:

Signature 

Date Oct. 8, 2019