



ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION MINUTES
Meeting held electronically via Zoom
Meeting ID #160 129 0803

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, January 12, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Rowlett Public Library - 3900 Main Street

Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the Arts and Humanities Commission meeting was held via teleconferencing. The public was provided an opportunity to submit comments for a specific agenda item or general comment through citizen email address.

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Deborah Crosby at 6:35 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.
 - Members present: Deborah Crosby, Jeff Winget, Gary Alexander, JR. Forasteros, Theresa Zicoello, Kate Voor and Elizabeth Swagerty
 - Members absent: Kim Nurmi, Neslie Fudge and Barbara Morrison
 - Council Liaison: Martha Brown
 - Staff present: Laura Tschoerner, Library Director; Constance Whalon, Library Assistant; and Lisa Watt, Senior Administrative Assistant

- 2) Chair selects voting alternate(s), if necessary.
 - Alternate Elizabeth selected as voting member in Barbara's absence.
 - Alternate Kate selected as voting member in Neslie's absence.
 - Alternate Theresa selected as voting member in Kim's absence.

- 3) Citizens' Input.
 - N/A

- 4) Consider approving the minutes from the regular meeting held November 10, 2020.
 - Motion made by Jeff to accept meeting minutes as written; seconded by Gary.
 - Motion approved 7-0.

- 5) Review updates and take possible action on Standing Commission reports:
 - Calendar 2021
 - Calendars delivered on 1/12/2021 to Library;
 - Deborah to deliver 1 box over to the Chamber of Commerce;
 - Laura will take 1 box to the RCC and 1 box to City Hall; Hold boxes for each Commission member;
 - Each council member receives one calendar;
 - The rest will be distributed to the public.

 - Grants FY2021
 - Arts in Education
 - AIE grant applications due January 15, 2021.

- Cultural Arts
 - Received recommendations from the Cultural Arts Grant Standing Commission on 1/12/2021.
 - Budget this year is \$2500.00.
 - Received 2 grant applications from Artist Round Texas and Eagle Booster Club.
 - Artist Round Texas would like \$1450 to use the monies for judges and awards.
 - Eagle Booster Club would like \$1325 to purchase a fogging machine and will be used on a continuous basis.
 - The Cultrual Arts Grants Committee recommended awarding \$1306.25 to Artist Round Texas and \$1193.75 to Eagle Booster Club.
 - Motion made by Elizabeth to accept awards decision; seconded by Jeff.
 - All in favor motion carried unanimously 7-0.

- Young Artist Exhibit
 - Packets have been distributed to Garland ISD and Rowlett Schools with a request to forward to teachers who are interested.
 - Intake is set for Friday, March 26th and March 27th.
 - Discussion ensued regarding intake since the usual location of the Annex cannot be used due to COVID. It was determined that the Library would suffice if the display cabinets and panels can be brought to the Library.
 - It was decided that the Activity Room would be utilized for intake and that board members would wear gloves and follow cleaning and safety protocols due to COVID.
 - Laura will provide the Commission a diagram of the proposed display area after meeting with City Maintenance.

- Writing Contest
 - JR. let the Commission know online applications can now be received via email. He hopes to get a great response.
 - A discussion ensued regarding themes for the contest.
 - Motion made by Deborah to use “In the Neighborhood” as the theme for the Writing Contest and Theresa seconded the motion.
 - All in favor motion carried unanimously 7-0.
 - Jeff had a note from Boot Camp that another \$50 award could be possible based on the budget of \$900 from last year and only \$850 was spent. The extra \$50 could be used as an additional award of 1st place for the youth winner or a 2nd place adult winner.

- Rowlett Sings
 - Gary proposed the idea of holding Rowlett Sings virtually. Laura reported that City events are being decided a month in advance. Members of the Commission felt that even if the City gave permission to hold the contest in person, obtaining a reasonable, indoor venue to hold the competition and socially distance spectators was not feasible.
 - Gary is working with Phil Barott and Drew Rist on a method to record and view entries on the City’s website. Entries will be submitted electronically. The Committee will narrow down entries to the top 3 of each category. These are the contestants who will be videotaped for judging.
 - After judges score the videos, those videos will be edited together. This edited together version will be “aired” to the public on the City’s streaming media and broadcasted on YouTube, like previous years.

- Publicity
 - Theresa provided an Update on Instagram page 13 followers in October and by mid November 85.

6) Review mentoring list from November meeting.

- Deborah verified mentoring assignments:
 - Debbie/Kate
 - Jeff/Elizabeth
 - Gary/Barbara
 - JR./Cheyanne
 - Kim/Theresa

7) Review, discuss and take possible action on Kenwood Park wooden trees painting project.

- Gary requested this be put on the agenda for next month.

8) Discuss current and future public art projects.

- Laura asked the Commission members to volunteer to judge the Dr. King Bookmark Contest for the Library.
- It was decided that bookmarks would be judged on Wednesday, January 27th at 7 pm. The following members will judge: Kate, Elizabeth, JR, Deborah

9) Discuss FY2022 Budget Needs

- Deborah asked the commission to suggest ideas on what is needed for the future.
 - Deborah explained the two different funds for the Arts and Humanities Commission. The Arts Fund carries over each year. There is a maintenance fund to maintain the art purchased.
 - Martha Brown gave insite regarding Council perspective on a very tight budget year due to COVID. We want to maintain what we have and not purchase any future art at this time. It has also been a topic of discussion the fund should be used for promoting the arts and not purchasing the art.
 - A suggestion was made to request an increase for maintenance by \$10K provided that would take care of maintenance for the sculptures the city currently has and the artwork in the lobby areas.
 - It was also suggested to Spotlight each art piece via the cities social media outlets and website. The pieces are located at Fire Station 1, 3, and 4, RCC, Veterans Park, Bluebonnet Park on Sunnybrook Lane, Library, plus the artwork in the lobby areas.
 - Deborah left Jeff, JR. and Theresa on the project. Before the next meeting to rethink the budget and give ideas and suggestions on how the money can be utilized.
- Recap- Public art maintenance policy
 - Discussion on the need to have welds inspected on Spirit of Rowlett sculpture; if inspection does not fall under Public Works, Commission will need to hire a vendor. Include estimated cost in FY2022 budget requests.
- General Update
 - N/A

Gary left meeting at 7:59 p.m.

10) Public Announcements.

- Laura shared that an email has been sent to the Commission regarding the Senior Advisory Board Listening Session.

- Jeff (a member of the Charter Review Commission) provided an update on Charter Term Limits and changing the date of our regular voting day, hiring a city auditor, city website. Council will come back and review the recommendations to be made by the Charter Review Commission

11) Future topics.

- Call to order
- Chair selects voting alternate(s), if necessary
- Citizens' Input
- Consider approving minutes from previous meeting
- Review updates and take possible action on Standing Commission reports:
 - Grants FY2021
 - Cultural Arts Grants
 - Status on notifications to recipients, publicity, request for checks, when checks available
 - Young Artist Exhibit
 - Laura to show setup with diagram to Commission on what shelving and cabinet would be used to display the artwork.
 - Writing Contest
 - JR. status update on receiving online applications.
 - Rowlett Sings
 - Continue discussion of a virtual contest
 - Publicity
 - Discussion on expanding the AHC social media presence continued
- Review, discuss and take possible action on Kenwood Park wood trees painting project
- Discuss current and future public art projects
 - Discussion on the need to have welds inspected on Spirit of Rowlett sculpture Include estimated cost in FY2022 budget requests.
- General Update
- Public announcements
 - Recap judging for Dr. King bookmark contest
- Future agenda items
- Adjourn

12) Adjournment

- Chair adjourned meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Approved by the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission:


Signature

April 17, 2021
Date