



**ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION MINUTES**  
Meeting held electronically via Zoom  
Meeting ID # 160 3851 7218

*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.*

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Tuesday, August 10, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Rowlett Public Library - 3900 Main Street

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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 6:32 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.  
Members present: Deborah Crosby, Gary Alexander, JR. Forasteros, Jeffery Winget, Neslie Fudge, and Elizabeth Swagerty  
Members absent: Theresa Zicolello, Kate Voor, and Barbara Morrison  
Council Liaison Present:  
Staff present: Laura Tschoerner, Library Services Director; Lisa Watt, Senior Administrative Assistant; Chief Neil Howard, Rowlett Fire Department, Tara Bradley, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board staff liaison  
Visitors Present: Tamra Williams, and from the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board was Joanna Phalen, and Diana Moore
- 2) Chair selects voting alternate(s), if necessary.  
Alternate Elizabeth Swagerty selected as voting member for Jeff Winget until he arrives and for JR Foresteros who left early

**Jeff Winget joined meeting at 6:45 p.m.**

- 3) Discuss artwork at Fire Station #2
  - a) Laura Tschoerner, spoke with cities from around the north Texas area to see how they handled purchasing art. Cities utilized Requests for Proposals, Requests for Qualifications, and Calls to Artists.
  - b) Rowlett Fire Chief Neil Howard recommended a traditional piece of artwork for Fire Station #2. Chief Howard suggested the artwork not be larger than 8' to 10' tall. He stated Fire Station #2 would be the center for future fire departments from around North Texas and possibly the United States because of their events and new training facility behind Fire Station #2.
  - c) Laura Tschoerner will work with the Public Art Committee to craft a Call to Artists to recruit interested parties.
  - d) Chief Neil Howard extended an invitation to the Arts and Humanities Commission to view the new Fire Station #2. Grand opening is scheduled for September 1, 2021.
- 4) Citizens' Input  
At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any topic. No action can be taken by the Arts and Humanities Commission during Citizens' Input.
  - a) There was no citizen input for this meeting.

- 5) Consider approving minutes from previous meetings held on June 8, 2021, and June 15, 2021.
  - a) A motion was made by Jeff Winget to accept the minutes for June 8, 2021, and June 15, 2021, meetings; seconded by Gary Alexander.
  - b) Motion approved unanimously.

**Out of Order 6:59 p.m. – item #7 was discussed out of order prior to item #6**

- 6) Discuss and take possible action on available FY2021 budget.
  - a) Funds from Rowlett Sings contest and Arts in Education Grant are to be redistributed.
  - b) Motion made by Jeff Winget to reallocate as follows:
    - i) \$1,000 to purchase additional art display panels.
    - ii) \$1,000 for an artist to assist with the DiverCity Event artwork.
    - iii) \$ 500 for Arts and Humanities to purchase promotional materials.
  - c) Motion was seconded by Gary Alexander.
  - d) Motion approved unanimously.

**J.R. Forasteros exited meeting at 6:52 p.m.**

- 7) Discuss and take possible action on request for the Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission's request for assistance at their DiverCity Event.
  - a) DiverCity event will be held on October 2, 2021. The Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission's proposed theme this year would be "Back to the Future". Event would be held downtown with stage, vendors, and booths.
  - b) The RDEIC invited Arts and Humanities Commission to participate in a communal art project. It was proposed to use hearts, smiley faces, or something easy that everyone could be a part of. Some art can be brought from home and placed on the communal art.
  - c) A suggestion was made to hire a professional artist to bring the communal art project together or to invite previous Rowlett Sings contestants. Social media can be used on both Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission's and Arts and Humanities social media outlet to give the event more publicity.
  - d) The RDEIC to provide further information for the event.
- 8) Discuss FY2022 Boot Camp and future meetings.
  - a) The Emergency Mandate allowing for virtual meeting participation ends August 31, 2021.
  - b) Boot Camp this year will be Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meeting room to be determined.
- 9) Review updates and take possible action on standing commission reports:
  - a) Photography Contest
    - i) Take-in of artwork is scheduled for August 20, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and August 21, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Lisa Watt will send an email to members to encourage volunteers to assist with take-in.
  - b) Scavenger Hunt
    - i) First year was a slow start, but the number of social media followers did increase. The Publicity Committee will review and revamp for a possible scavenger hunt in FY2022.

- c) Publicity
  - i) New social media logo approval was discussed. Two logo ideas were submitted to Laura Tschoerner to be discussed with the city. The response will be discussed at next month meeting.
  - ii) A discussion on the usage of the promotional budget and how best to spend the money allocated to the account. Suggestions were made for key chains, magnets, note pads, crayon packs with logo. It was decided to discuss at next meeting.
  - iii) Rowlett Spotlight promotion has increased the number of social media followers. Over the past several months Instagram has grown from 8 to nearly 200 followers; Facebook starting October 2020 with 7 followers and now has around 257.
- d) Update on Kenwood Park trees painting project
  - i) This project has been completed. Parks department will display the trees in two to three months.

10) Update on June 15, 2021, work session with City Council

- a) During the City Council work session, it was discussed the Arts and Humanities Commission is to develop a plan for maintaining the Rowlett artwork. City staff would maintain the artwork based on the recommendations.
- b) Council asked the Commission to propose ideas for repainting or revitalizing the mural on the sound barrier wall along Highway 66.
- c) It was decided the Public Art Committee would review and give suggestions on project.

11) Discuss current and future public art projects.

- a) Update on Spirit of Rowlett revitalization. Several members viewed the restoration work performed by Bronze Conservation. Members had some concerns about the blending of paint. The paint used was brushed and not spray painted. The artist stated some of the areas of concern the original art was built that way.

12) Public Announcements. Members of the Board or Commission and/or staff may make announcements of local civic events. No member of the board or commission may discuss nor take any action with regard to the announcements.

- a) No public announcements

13) Members of the Board or Commission may request topics for **future agenda meetings**. No member of the board or commission may discuss any of the requested subjects until such matter has been properly placed on a posted agenda.

1. Call to order
2. Chair selects voting alternate(s), if necessary
3. Discuss artwork at Fire Station #2
4. Citizens' Input
5. Consider approving minutes from previous meetings held on August 10, 2021.
6. Discuss and take possible action on request for the Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission's request for assistance at their DiverCity Event.
7. Discuss FY2022 Boot Camp and future meetings

8. Review updates and take possible action on Standing Committee reports:
  - a. Photography Contest
  - b. Publicity
    - i. New social media logo approval
    - ii. Discuss the usage of the promotional item budget
    - iii. Rowlett Spotlight update
9. Discuss current and future public art projects.
  - a. Yarn art project
10. Public Announcements.
11. Future agenda items.
12. Adjourn

14) Adjournment

Chair adjourned meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Approved by the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission:

Hannah L. Crosby  
Signature

9/14/21.  
Date