



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
March 10, 2022
6:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting**

Present: Greg Duncan, Molly Hon, Shane Immelt, Anna Knackstedt, Katie McDonald, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman, Aaron Money, Heather Jones, and Garrette Brown

Absent: none

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager and Katherine Sharp, Planning & Development Director (Zoom moderator)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairwoman McDonald.

Commissioner Knackstedt made a motion to approve the February 10, 2022 Meeting Summary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Money. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Current Business

Consideration of a Mini Grant application from the D-Gees requesting funds for creating a jingle for the City of Liberty:

- Chairwoman McDonald said the grant subcommittee reviewed the application, it was a request for \$1,000 to create a Liberty theme song or jingle to be used for marketing purposes. The subcommittee talked it through and they are recommending that we deny the grant because it doesn't meet the grant guidelines. They talked to Claire Rodgers in the City Communications office who communicated that a jingle may not be useful to the city at this time. McDonald asked for questions from the Commission.
- Commissioner Stilfield asked why they are recommending denial. Chairwoman McDonald said the proposal was for them to create a jingle for the City and it wouldn't be useful to the City, also the review committee felt that it doesn't seem to have a tourism connection.
- Councilman Duncan said he would support the sub-committee's recommendation. We aren't looking for a jingle, if we were, we would. It seems like a mismatch. He said that he hopes that when Staff notifies the applicant of the decision that it is communicated there is a thorough process and an explanation, and that we communicate it in a way to make the applicant feel good. If there comes a time that the City needs a jingle we will have their information on file.

- Chairwoman McDonald said the process clarifies the purpose of the grants and it further clarifies what we are trying to achieve. We want to continue to encourage people to apply. The Commission agreed that it is an excellent project celebrating people in our community, but they didn't feel it met the guidelines of the grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Immelt to accept the subcommittee's recommendation to deny it the application from the D-Gees' because it doesn't meet the definition of public art nor is the proposed project tourism based. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stilfield. Commissioner Brown abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Chairwoman McDonald will send Shane the D-Gees' contact info for Make Music Day.

Transient Guest Tax Report:

- Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt reported that the Tourism Committee met on February 24th. They had a lot of grant applications, a total of 14. They partially awarded 11 of those. Some of them could have been eligible for an art grant. Some that were art related: The Liberty Community Chorus, Corbin Theatre, Artisan Market, and the Liberty Symphony Orchestra. Three were funded at 100 percent. Also, the CCAAL was funded for the expansion of the Juneteenth event. She wondered why some chose to apply for the Tourism Grant rather than an art grant. We might want to look at how we are marketing our grants. We should look at their grant applications and how it's worded. Maybe it is a timing thing. She said they advertised through word of mouth and through the Chamber of Commerce. She will ask Claire Rodgers for more information.
- Commissioner Immelt said they did see it on Facebook. Corbin Kids was funded for \$2,500 for the summer camp Kids Company.
- Councilman Duncan asked if we have any parameters if they can double dip.
- Commissioner Knackstedt said there isn't anything that prohibits it, but if there is something else that they would want a grant for, they should be considered. She said they evaluate if they can expand an existing event or if it is helping kick off a new event. They don't want it to be the main portion of the budget.
- Councilman Duncan said some of them put on reoccurring events. We can remind them that if they have a special event then maybe there are clear ways that we can reach out and let them know. Councilman Duncan asked if the Community Chorus event was for the plein air event where they paint around town. Bryan Taylor asked Councilman Duncan about that event.
- Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt said it is for their summer concert series. If they want to do some other outdoor activity then she doesn't think it would be a conflict.

Make Music Day 2022:

- Commissioner Stilfield reported that they had a planning committee meeting on March 6th; it was originally scheduled for March 23rd so they decided to not meet. The next meeting will be March 23rd.
- Commissioner Immelt said he is attending a virtual Make Music Meeting on Sunday.

Vacant Seat on the Commission:

- Staff reported that Amy Steinbeck resigned from the Arts Commission. Commissioner Wyman said we should think about diversifying. We have a lot of white faces in the crowd and we should diversify.
- Chairwoman McDonald said we have subcommittee work to get done. It might be useful to give potential Commissioners some context of what they could be working on.
- Staff encouraged them to recruit and have them fill out an Interest Form.

Other Business

- a. Art Partner Reports – No Report
- b. Liberty Arts Foundation – No Report
- c. Library - Chairwoman McDonald said she is meeting with Melissa Stan who organizes the gallery. She hopes to make it a more organized communication loop where we can do more targeted marketing. She will bring more information in the coming months.
- d. William Jewell - Commissioner Wyman reported March 25 and 27 the Opera program will be putting on the *Marriage of Figaro* at Peters Theatre. Two weeks later will be Dolly Parton's *9 to 5*. Also, the Stocksdale Gallery will be closed this month. April 10 they will be opening the show with Benjamin Parks' large-scale portraits. He may be putting on a concert at the time of his opening reception. Commissioner Money said it has been challenging to get enough artwork.
- e. Corbin Theatre - Commissioner Stilfield reported that Corbin was supposed to have "Jazz at the Garrison" but they had to cancel due to icy weather conditions. Tonight, is the opening of a play called *Savannah Pacific Society*, but the first performance has been cancelled due to weather. It will run through Sunday. Following that *Stars of Tomorrow*; about 30 young musicians will be performing for totally different shows. The 19, 26, and 27 at 2:00 p.m. Since our last meeting they had Phil King, an illusionist. It was fairly successful. They are going to try to have other types of music genres and possibly have comedians and other illusionists.
- f. Liberty Public Schools - Commissioner Brown said *Arsenic in Old Lace* is at the high schools. *Legally Blonde* is at Discovery and more things in April. Money said for the month of June they are opening a Creative Arts Academy for grades 6-9. Animation, art, and school house rock. They will be creating a show from scratch and touring it around Liberty. He said they may be vagabonding looking for locations. Commissioner Brown asked if there is a cap. The cap is 350 for middle schools. High school 9th and 10th graders will be eligible to participate. Chairwoman McDonald said they would love to participate and Jewell would be interested too.

Other Business

- Staff reported that the temporary Parade of Heart's sculpture was installed last week in front of the City Hall Fountain. It will be there until early June.
- Councilman Duncan reported that the Liberty Performing Arts Center's new model is its smaller and its free. Langston Hemingway is the contact there. He would love to see them succeed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Money to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Immelt.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:39 p.m.