



## MEETING SUMMARY

July 13, 2023

6:00 p.m. Admin Conference Room

Present: Garrett Brown, Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Brian Kelley, Katie McDonald, Karly Schieder, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman

Absent: Molly Hon, Anna Knackstedt

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

Guest: Dr. Marty Jacobs, Jane Boswell

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairwoman McDonald.

Commissioner Immelt made a motion to approve the June 2023 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelley. The motion passed 8-0-0.

### Current Business

#### Mini Grant Application-

- Chairwoman McDonald invited Marty and Jane to make comments about their \$1000 mini-grant application.
- Dr. Jacobs explained that the application is to help with costs related to a performance by the Heartland Men's Chorus on December 5 at the Liberty Performing Arts Theatre. The applicant is Clay Countians for Inclusion, their mission is to advance understanding and quality of life and inclusion in Clay County and is a 501c4 organization established about three years ago and David Sallee is the president. They wanted a celebratory, joyful evening then have a meeting afterward to talk about issues that might enlighten people about issues or legislation at the state. A way to celebrate but also educate people. They hope for a minimum of 300 people attend the performance. This is a high-quality musical performance. They have booked the LPAT and a meeting room for December 5<sup>th</sup>. The grant dollars would go toward paying for the facility and putting on the performance.
- Ms. Boswell commented it will be very family friendly.

- Commissioner Duncan asked if it is a two-part event, a performance followed by the educational portion.
- Dr. Jacobs said they are still working out the details but that they were thinking it would be one umbrella, one event. If they conclude in the theatre then have a discussion afterward in the meeting room, it may seem like a two-part event. The beginning of the program talks about the origin of the Men's Heartland Chorus.
- Commissioner Kelley asked if there have ever been any protestors at their events.
- Ms. Boswell said they have never had that happen at their performances.
- Commissioner Duncan asked who does the discussion.
- Dr. Jacobs said Dudley or someone from the group would lead that discussion. They are a resource that runs a group home for LGBTQ people that have been kicked out of their homes.
- Commissioner Duncan said we need to think what the messaging is behind it and if it meets the Arts Commissions criteria for giving a grant. Where it starts to blend with an educational piece, which may be divisive, that is something that we need to consider if it is proper use of public money. The messaging for the grant should be thoughtfully considered, it may be that the grant funding is attached to the performance and not attached to something that is divisive and political. The cause is a good thing but the grant is an arts grant, using public money.
- Commissioner Brown commented that the night is about the performance. People who would go would to this are likely already be open to this.
- Commissioner Duncan said there are two parts we need to consider. Are we operating under the criteria of the arts grant and also it does put us in a position that the event will attract attention and questions about the use of public funds for the educational portion of the event? It may affect future funding.
- Ms. Boswell commented that educational part / social aspect does not have to be part of the marketing at all. They can separate the discussion afterwards if needed.
- Commissioner Immelt pointed out that the grant application is titled "Heartland Men's Chorus Performance"
- Dr. Jacobs suggested that his group could write a detailed marketing strategy that can be considered by the Commission.
- Commissioner Duncan commented that would be helpful.
- Commissioner Brown commented that we may be catering to a vocal minority. It was discussed that in the past when performances are ticketed, the Commission asked about reduced prices or free/discounted tickets.
- Commissioner Stilfield commented that we won't get anyone to apply for a grant if there aren't ticket sales. The wording in the grant application was changed that the performance had to be open to the public.
- The applicant will bring additional information back to the group and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **Make Music Day –**

- Commissioner Stilfield reported that it was a record-breaking year for Make Music Day, with nearly double the performances, we had 93 performances this year. Which ties with KC. There were 88 performers and 24 venues. We had several interesting groups, such as Kona Winds that had Polynesian group perform and the Heartland Men's Barbershop that had 35-40 men performing. This is their second year. Overall everything went well. There were a few issues. There were some complaints from the performers to hear over the Carillon. We also had some noise bleed. At the wrap up meeting we decided to have the Carillon play at the beginning of

the day at 10 am and then at the end of the day. The info booth at Franklin & Main was a good location. The performance handout, sorted by time, was really helpful and the one that everyone wanted. If there are other ways to publish the time schedule that would be helpful. Next year we will have the cut off registration date earlier. We had it by venue also. There was a demand for t-shirts. Next year we might want to have them order and buy directly from Brandt's. The foundation might be the entity to sell the t-shirts. Commissioner Stilfield also reported that we did receive a proclamation from the Mayor.

- Commissioner Kelley asked how we acknowledge artists. He suggested that at minimum cost we can give out certificate of recognition to people that perform. On social media we could marketing in advance.
- Commissioner Stilfield said he always recognizes people and thanks them when they register. We could thank the venues also.

#### **Sculptures Update-**

- Ms. Thill reported that all three purchase pieces; Things are Getting Better, C'est la Vie and Drop were approved for purchase by the City Council. The checks will be mailed to the latter two on Friday and the other will be paid upon installation. All contracts have been signed for the incoming sculptures that will be installed in September.

#### **Other Business:**

##### **Marketing /Communications Subcommittee Update- No report**

#### **Art Partner Reports:**

**Liberty Arts Foundation-** Commissioner Duncan reported that their group met recently. The arts foundation was established as a fundraising mechanism for the Arts Commission when LAC didn't have funding. They discussed if they need a foundation and its purpose. Heather Jones and Commissioner Duncan are meeting to discuss their purpose as an organization.

#### **Library- No report**

#### **William Jewell- No report**

**Corbin Theatre** - Commissioner Stilfield reported that tomorrow night Georgia Barge and Patrick Scheele will be performing. \$15 adults \$5 student. 7-9 pm. Georgia was recognized for best performance.

**Liberty Public Schools-** Commissioner Brown said his son recently participated in a Corbin production, it was a great experience.

#### **Other Business:**

Commissioner Kelley reported that the Tribune had an article about the mini grants funding the utility boxes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.