

Official Minutes of the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Location: Library Conference Room, 3900 Main Street

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Mary Drayer at 6:31 p.m. and a quorum was present.
 - Members present: Hugo Martinez, Mary Drayer, Jerry Barshop, Laqueata Brown, Jerry Hickman, Cassie Wilson and Veena Valiaveedu.
 - Members absent: N/A
 - Staff present: Kathy Freiheit and Brenda Kennedy.
 - Visitors present: Amanda Whittington (Rowlett Community Chorale) and Council Liaison Carl Pankratz.

- 2) Consider approving minutes from previous meetings.
 - Regular meeting on February 14, 2012.
 - Special work session on March 1, 2012.
Motion made by Hugo Martinez to accept both sets of minutes as written; Jerry Barshop seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Review budget overview from prior month.
 - The fee for the Young Artists Exhibit judging was only expense in February.
 - Invoice for Young Artists Exhibit ribbons has been received for payment.

- 4) Discuss to keep Cultural Arts Center in City's vision.
 - a) Receive a report on the special work session held March 1, 2012.
 - Hugo Martinez shared two news articles which appeared in the Dallas Morning News, "Neighbors Go" and "Metro" sections.
 - Kathy Freiheit indicated that a decision to air the work session videotape has not been made.
 - Attendance for the work session totaled 14 people, including 7 A&H Commission members.
 - Several citizens attending the work session expressed support for a center in Rowlett.
 - Discussion on ways to reach more citizens included an insert in the water bills, city newsletters, and local newspapers.
 - Hugo Martinez and Mary Drayer plan to meet with new Economic Director, Jim Grabenhorst. Arts & Humanities members were encouraged to attend Realize Rowlett 2020 (Part 2) meetings as a way to keep momentum going. (Kathy will find out dates and report back.) Hugo suggested having another special work session in a year.
 - Question asked about what steps were taken when the Rowlett Community Centre was built. Discussion followed and suggestion made to research to learn details.
 - Question was posed asking how the City can evaluate the need for a center when there are so many higher priority needs; a 2009 citizen survey showed a center is a lower priority.
 - Question asked as to how the Friends of the Library got started. (Kathy will research and report back.)
 - Question posed asking if a "Friends of the Arts" group could be formed. Kathy indicated that it would be an independent group, perhaps 501(c)(3), and not part of the A&H Commission.
 - Kathy Freiheit indicated that before going to Council with a plan or request there needs to be consensus among members of the Commission and a great deal of community support.

- 5) Update from standing committees:
 - Writing Contest – Carl Pankratz has a person Mary could contact about judging the contest; he will provide Mary the contact information. If this person can't do the judging, Veena Valiaveedu knows an

English professor at Eastfield Community College. Contest information will be added to the City's website.

- Photography Contest – Decision and possible action will be taken at the April meeting to determine the theme for contest this year. Please bring your suggestions to the meeting.
- Young Artists Exhibit – Kathy Freiheit reported that Drew Rist, Creative Services Producer, took photos of the winning entries and burned them to disk as a permanent record for use in any DART station displays.
- Arts in Education – Brenda will email Cassie Wilson and Veena Valiaveedu the grant application. They will update the information for Commission review.
- Publicity – Cassie Wilson asked for information, facts, etc. to be sent to her so she can work on publicity. In discussion about having a Commission Facebook page, Kathy explained that City Communications is working on policies and a new design for social media. Any individual pages would require City approval.

6) Public Announcements.

- Rowlett Community Chorale has been invited to sing during the Library's 6th Annual Parent-Child Tea Party in May.
- Lakeshore Symphonic Winds March concert was cancelled due to lack of a rhythm section.

7) Future topics.

- Call to order
- Consider approving minutes of the regular meeting of previous meeting
- Review budget overview from prior month
- Discuss plans for keeping a Cultural Arts Center in the City's vision
- Discuss concept of an independent Friends of the Arts organization
- Receive updates and take possible action from standing committees:
 - Writing Contest
 - Photography contest (theme)
 - Young Artists Exhibit
 - Arts in Education grant
 - Publicity
- Public announcements
- Future topics
- Adjournment

8) Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved by the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission:


Signature

4-10-12
Date