

Cultural Commission November 5, 2012

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Cultural Affairs Commission of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in regular session at 6:30 pm at the Bedford Public Library, 2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX on the 5th day of November, 2012 with the following members present:

Alicia McGlinchey, Chair
Dr. Paul Davis
David Medina
Tom Jacobsen
Lee Koch

Constituting a quorum

Others present included:
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden - Staff Liaison
Patricia Nolan – Council Liaison
Ray Champney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Alicia McGlinchey called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Consider approval of the following Cultural Commission minutes:**
 - **October 22, 2012 regular meeting.**

Ms. Lee Koch made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 22, 2012 meeting; the motion was seconded by Dr. Paul Davis. The motion passed 5 – 0.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McGlinchey moved the order of the agenda and allowed Mr. Champney to present before Item #2.

2. **Discussion of the ongoing process of the cultural assessment process.**

The group reviewed the following outline presented by Tom Jacobsen:

I – Commission Members

II – Ordinance No. 11-2993 Powers and Duties Cultural Commission

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III – Mission Statement

IV – Vision Statement

V – Application for Cultural District Designation – Why Not Necessary

VI – Key Stakeholders

- A. Importance – “Voice of the Community”
- B. Stakeholder Participants:
 - a. Boards Group
 - i. Jeanette Cook – Parks Board
 - ii. Rick Peters – Library Board
 - iii. Joe Bangert – Senior Center
 - b. Business Group
 - i. Geoff Graham – Carter Blood Center
 - ii. Carolyn Simms – Commissioner Fickes Office
 - c. Schools and Conference Centers
 - i. Danny Dietrick – Birdville ISD
 - ii. Mark Chandler – HEB ISD
 - iii. Janice Vickery – Hurst Convention Center
 - d. Others
 - i. Mike Collins – Eules Economic Development Director
 - ii. Dr. Larry Darlage - TCC

VII – Results of Stakeholder Interviews (embellish each summary item with a quote)

- A. Start With What You Have and Support it
- B. Need to Integrate Many Diverse Groups
- C. There is a Need to Create Partnerships for Synergy
- D. Survey Existing Facilities and Repurpose some Structures
- E. There is a Need for New Facilities
- F. There is a Strong Need for Better Communications between Groups and Governments
- G. Find a Niche – Don’t Duplicate What Already Exists

VIII – Site Visits

- A. Levitt Pavilion Arlington, TX - Findings
- B. Dallas Creative Arts Center – Dallas, TX - Findings

IX - Facilities Survey

- A. Venues
 - o Trinity Arts Guild (TAG)
 - o Old Bedford School (OBS)

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- Boys Ranch Activity Center (BRAC)
 - Bedford Senior Activity Center
 - Bedford Public Library
 - Hurst Senior Center
 - Bedford Onstage
 - Eules Midway Recreation Center
 - Birdville ISD Fine Arts/Athletic Complex
 - Arts Council Northeast
 - Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD
- B. Findings
- C. Copy of Facilities Survey

X – Artists Survey

- A. 29 Artists Interviewed
- B. Key Findings
- C. Results of Artists Survey (Attachment)

XI – Bedford Community Profile

XII – Conclusions

XIII – Recommendations

Discussion was had on how to proceed with the report to Council. The group asked if multiple members could participate in the presentation to Council or just Ms. McGlinchey. Ms. McQuagge-Walden assured them they could have as many as they wanted.

Ms. McGlinchey stated she wanted to provide Council with a report on their findings and present the various ideas and data that the Commission has received but felt it would be up to the Council to determine what actions to take from the report.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation from Ray Champney regarding observations to date and future consideration in accordance with Powers & Duties.

(Item #3 was discussed before Item #2)

Mr. Champney commended the Commission on doing a great job and stated that he was there to share some of his ideas for the Cultural District. He stated that the concept stems from a presentation he made that arts/culture should be seen as a catalyst for economic development rather than a silo. He said that there should be an inventory of assets and then use them to repurpose the direction of the City. Mr. Champney indicated that the CBDZ and the Cultural District were being viewed as vertical concepts or separate from each other. He reviewed the duties in the ordinance and said that the Commission's duties go beyond just a strategic plan. He stated the board can be a catalyst for the desire to have a Cultural District in the City. He

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recommended that arts/culture be used as a catalyst for economic development and for that to happen there needed to be a unique concept. He suggested various ideas such as:

- The old library building as a regional center for the arts,
- El Systema orchestra programs for disadvantaged children, and
- Band stands/ scattered kiosks and pavilions.

He suggested that the group use a bigger picture where concepts are horizontal not vertical development and they need a good solid plan. The plan also needs to be done while the construction is still ongoing on the highway.

Mr. Champney said that once the plan is complete the biggest risk is that it will not be communicated. If it just sits on a shelf it is a waste of time. The next risk is moving too quickly and the last risk is not moving fast enough. He stated don't make it a report but make it a plan.

The group discussed Mr. Champney's presentation. Mr. Jacobsen suggested they might end up with the low hanging fruit like the Creative Arts Center. Ms. Koch said that people drive all the way from Fort Worth to east Dallas and they might like not having to go so far. Ms. McGlinchey mentioned the Alexandria, Virginia torpedo factory, which was an old factory that was converted to an arts center, and the group discussed the evolution of that project.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lee Koch motioned to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Dr. Paul Davis and passed unanimously.

Approved:

Alicia McGlinchey, Chair