

**Cultural Commission August 12, 2019**

**STATE OF TEXAS §**

**COUNTY OF TARRANT §**

**CITY OF BEDFORD §**

The Bedford Cultural Commission met in regular session on August 12, 2019, with the following members present:

Thomas Jacobsen                      Summer Finley  
Joseph Cartwright                      Josh Santillan                      Kimmie Hamm

Wendy Hartnett – City of Bedford  
Charlenia Walsh – City of Bedford

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by Mr. Jacobsen.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Consider approval of the following Cultural Commission minutes:**
  - a. August 12, 2019**

The minutes for were approved with no changes by a motion by Mr. Cartwright and Miss Hamm seconded the motion.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion and update on Phase Next and the Old Bedford School.**

Ms. Hartnett – Addressed that on June 20th, the council advocated 5.5 million dollars for the design and construction visual arts/art division for the Old Bedford School, and also advocated for 4.5 million of the Phase Next fund<sup>(?)</sup> to the overall park. Park said to be closed down—probably as early as January. (Timeline needed from contractors to be certain.)

Need to find alternative space for onstage during the park project and direct the staff to provide as much recreation and senior programming as possible, and other venues, during the park project.

Mr. Jacobsen – Spoke of a promise made by the city to look for other facilities for the time being, but we have yet to be updated.

Mr. Santillan – Mentioned the Trinity Arts Guild—one of the arts organizations that “everyone tends to forget.” (The Arts Council was also mentioned; however, it was said and is evident that they have no interest in helping represent Bedford.)

Mr. Jacobsen – Questioned if the Phase Next would be on the agenda for tomorrow (August 13th). The response was “no.”

Ms. Sabol – Questioned as to what TAG needed. Kimmie responded with “programming.” Addressed that on August 14th, Arts Council had planned a meeting.

## Cultural Commission August 12, 2019

Mr. Santillan – Touched on problems happening within Arts Council; problems which affect the Cultural Commission from making any further progress to improve the city of Bedford. Thus, in turn, affecting the community. (Still, some were inclined to “reach out.”)

Mr. Cartwright – Questioned if the space at the Old Bedford School is to be used for seniors in the coming future. Ms. Hartnett reconfirms.

Mr. Cartwright – Insisted strongly that we get involved as a group. Ask ourselves the following questions:

“How are we going to help steer the arts over the next two years?”

“How will things shape up, along with council?”

Suggested we need funding for public art, though at the moment art is in flux.

Ms. Hartnett – Mentioned that on August 13th, an evening discussion was taking place concerning a granting program; something that could help put together a sum of money that our group could potentially make use of.

Ms. Sabol – Recommended Joseph, among others who are equally passionate, but more outspoken, to speak at open forum about wanting to be a part of the solution, not just the meetings. Mr. Jacobsen is willing to partake as well to get their voice out there. (We are reminded to sign up for open forum before the meeting starts.)

Open forum was August 13th and began at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Cartwright – Proposed the commission figure out what to do in the meantime to keep the arts moving forward passionately. Keep it from languishing for years on little programs. Challenged the commission—in a genuinely passionate manner—to come up with real-life solutions to help our council make wise decisions to ensure Bedford’s future for the arts over the next two years.

### **2. Discussion and possible action on Public Art.**

Mr. Jacobsen – Mentioned Mr. Santos; hoping he would have ready a name (a person) the commission could contact. Someone from the Creative Arts Center in Dallas was also mentioned, who, fortunately, may be interested in a proposal.

Mr. Jacobsen – Said the commission promised the council to have something going and thus, proposed that maybe we invite more than one person to come to our September meeting, if possible, to talk design, costs, etc. Suggested we come up with a proposal, a cost—whatever more the council need.

Mr. Cartwright – Briefly revisited the subject of the bike racks. The project stands shelved.

Ms. Hamm – Questioned where in the city is public art allowed to be setup. If there were any city codes to be addressed. The response was that it was of our own choosing and that we should come up with some creative ideas.

Mr. Santillan – Suggested the commission come up with art (using graffiti) that is simple and invoke positive change, especially in areas that need it most. However, this may be up for debate.

## Cultural Commission August 12, 2019

Ms. Hartnett – Briefly spoke about our budget before moving on to a fundraiser taking place September 9th, our next meeting date. Everyone agreed to have the date moved to the following Monday (September 16th).

Ms. Sabol – Invited the commission to attend an inaugural event at the Central Arts of Hurst, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Mr. Cartwright – Reiterated on the Cultural Commission’s next meeting date, which is September 16th.

Mr. Jacobsen – Asked if there was a motion. Motion made by Joseph and Kimmie seconded the motion to move the next Cultural Commission meeting to the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Discussion, updates and possible action on upcoming art and cultural programming.

- Mr. Santillan – Briefly spoke on a new restaurant; a Laotian kitchen.
- Ms. Hartnett – Called to attention about the commission’s plans for a Spring/Fall reception. Our first focus being the *TAG* gallery, and second, the Central Arts of Bedford, among other things. The goal: Focus and highlight on our non-profits. Get all our non-profits in a room together (for conversation).
- Mr. Cartwright – Urged once more that we come together as a group; get involved and cooperate. “Move forward as a unit.”
- Ms. Hartnett – Questioned if there was time for another *Arts Talk*. The response was “yes.” (A couple of members were unfamiliar with *Arts Talk* before an explanation was given.)
- Ms. Sabol – Shifted focus on economic development, which is poor in Bedford. Need more amusement and/or recreational establishments for the youth, especially for traveling entertainers or out-of-towners.
- Mr. Santillan – Pointed out the disparities between Hurst and Bedford (all valid comparisons).
- Ms. Hamm – Wandered if we could go even further with the concert events, including the *Chalk Walk* events, etc.
- Ms. Hartnett – Stated that on August 27th, another Phase Next update is going to council.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no additional business, Mr. Cartwright made a motion for adjournment of the meeting; Miss Hamm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.**

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Thomas Jacobson, Chairperson