

**DeSoto Arts Commission Meeting
November 3, 2014
Minutes**

Civic Center – Blue Bonnet 2

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Pamela Dawson
Rena' Thomas
Evelyn Trowell
Gregory Isaacs**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

**Sheldon Ballatt (resigned)
Summer Selby-Drew (resigned)
Eldon Williams (resigned)**

GUEST:

**Lesley Griggs
Zyndall Anderson**

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON Absent:

Rachel Proctor

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathy Jones, Community Relations Mgr.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Pamela Dawson called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 22, 2014 and October 6, 2014 meetings were reviewed. Rena' Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 22, 2014 October 6, 2014 meetings as written. The motion was seconded by Evelyn Trowell and approved unanimously.

III. Introduction of Guests:

A. Lesley Griggs introduced himself as a new member of the Arts Commission. He will be appointed by Mayor Pro Tem McCowan at the next City Council Meeting to fill Summer Selby-Drew's unexpired term. Lesley is a graphics artist and musician with experience providing sound set up for the City of DeSoto's tree lighting a few years ago. Lesley also worked on the special event, Star Spangled Forth in

Garland, Texas and brings a wealth of knowledge in putting together large events to the commission.

- B. Zyndall Anderson, the City's new Recreation Supervisor with responsibility for the management of the Corner Theatre, introduced herself to the commission. Zyndall expressed an interest in working closely with the commission and shared plans to bring the Corner Theatre into compliance with building and safety codes.

IV. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Uptown/Downtown/DeSoto Concert Series

1. Kathy Jones explained that it she felt that Blue Candlelight Productions was not ready to begin the concert series in October because little marketing had been done. She encouraged them to push the concert series back to begin in the Spring, 2015.
2. Kathy met with Baya Kakouberi and Sher Briggs of Blue Candlelight Productions on October 29, 2014 to finalize a concert schedule, tie down all the details, responsibilities and marketing for the concerts. Sher provided a list of the proposed concert dates and a list of activities and responsibilities that Blue Candlelight would be responsible for along with a list of the things she understood that the Arts Commission would provide. Kathy stated that she felt that postponing the series would allow it to be much more successful.

B. Dallas Black Dance Theater Performance –

1. A performance of the Dallas Black Dance Theater has been scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2015 at 7pm in the DHS auditorium.
2. Commission members would like to see this event promoted to DHS students and have some other arts events or activities that would engage students earlier in the day.
3. Pamela suggested that the Acapella Choir perform in the lobby area of the auditorium prior to the performance and it was also suggested that there be a student visual art exhibit with a Black History Month theme in the lobby as well.
4. Rena' Thomas suggested that we consider having Daryl Richardson, the founder and director of "The Me Nobody Knows" program come in to provide dance workshops for students during the afternoon prior to the DBDT performance. Rena' will reach out to her to see if that is possible.

C. Outdoor Movie Series

1. The Arts Commission has been asked to cover the \$381.83 cost of renting the equipment to provide an outdoor screening of "A Charlie

Brown Christmas" in the outdoor amphitheater on December 6, 2014 after the Holiday Parade. Rena' Thomas moved that the Arts Commission would cover the \$381.83 cost to rent the equipment for the outdoor screening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas". The motion was seconded by Gregory Isaacs and approved unanimously.

2. There was some discussion of possible movies for the summer time series and possibly extending the number of showings.

D. Arts, Beats and Eats

1. This event is tentatively scheduled for the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, 2016. The components would be music on multiple stages, food, and vendors.
2. Lesley worked on the Star Spangled Forth event in Garland and still has information and contacts from that event which should be helpful in organizing this event. Lesley has committed to share that information with the group at the next meeting.
3. There was discussion of a possible locations for the event, parking options and costs, and logistics.
4. The commissioners will put together a plan to present the event to the Parks Department.

IV. REVIEW OF THE ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. Rena' Thomas presented an overview of the Board & Commission Attendance Ordinance and made the group aware that, in addition to tracking attendance, a record would also be kept of the time spent at the meeting, noting either late arrivals or early departures.
- B. Kathy Jones will prepare an Attendance Spreadsheet that will be signed off on at each meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Gregory Isaacs suggested that we need to broaden our volunteer base by possibly starting a "Friends of the Arts Commission" group or volunteer guild. He suggested that we could offer free tickets to our concert series and other events as an incentive for the volunteers. He also suggested that the best way to get this program started would be to "tap" someone who is socially prominent in the community with influence and contacts who could act as the "honorary chair".
 1. Gregory called for a motion to ask the commission to identify two or three people who might serve on the volunteer guild and to provide those names to him and that he would follow through with them.

Evelyn Trowell seconded the motion. Rena' stated that his motion was premature.

2. Gregory revised his motion to ask the Commission to explore the possibility of reviving the Volunteer Guild that had been in place a couple of years ago and to identify an honorary chair of the guild. Evelyn seconded that motion. A vote of two commissioners for and two against caused the motion to fail.

- B. Rena' Thomas announced that DeSoto ISD has named Matt Edwards as the new instructional supervisor. She would like to invite him along with Robert Torres from Woodridge, the Arts Magnet Elementary, to begin attending Arts Commission meetings.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Pamela Dawson, Chair
DeSoto Arts Commission



Kathy Jones
Community Relations Mgr.

12/1/14

Date