

Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes of Meeting

Monday, March 21st, 2016

6:30 pm at Recreation and Aquatic Facility

Attendees:

Brittany Howard (Chair), Dean Caffentzis (Secretary), Brittaney Palumbo, Gina Marie DiGregorio, Rachel Marie Hagenbaugh

Doreen Summers, City Liaison

Steve Schurdell, Guest Speaker

Doreen announced the departure of former committee member, Ben Fresby. Comments and discussions followed on the start of the renovation of the Hacienda Hotel where new construction and a new sign were evidence of the new construction taking place. A general discussion about the upgrade and improvements at Sims Park also mentioned as improved safety, increased visibility and improvement in local business area traffic were noted.

The Chair opened the floor for any interest and or nominations for the vacancy of the position of Vice President. Doreen advised that there has been no response to a publicly placed ad. The Secretary expressed an interest as nominee for the position of Vice President; however, that would create a vacancy at the position of Secretary. Gina Marie stated that the votes should be postponed until all members (including alternates) be present. The Chair and Committee members agreed. Doreen further commented that the vote could not be delayed for an alternate position to be filled.

The Committee welcomed Steve Schurdell from HITS106 Radio. Steve relayed what was discussed in his prior meeting with representatives that bringing together street performers for the "HOTEF" event scheduled for April 29th would not be possible because of time constraints. Bringing together performers means seeing who is available as some performers may require payment, others may be satisfied with a gift certificate, while others who are currently enrolled in one of the local theatres may wish to participate on a volunteer basis. Steve continued, the concept of having street performers at a scheduled event is still in the works; however a more realistic time would be in keeping with a September 24th concept date as opposed to the "HOTEF" scheduled date set for April 29th. At that rescheduled time it will be much easier to coordinate with Jimmy Ferraro's Studio Theatre and road closures to accommodate street performers. The Secretary pleased with that decision, said he is happy to see that it is not a question of "if" the event will take place but "when" the event will take place. The Chair also commented that she could not see how it would be possible to coordinate the "HOTEF" event with all the other events connected to the "HOTEF" event given such a short period of time, citing the seemingly impossible task of achieving that goal. Rescheduling was a more sensible approach and the only real choice under the circumstances. In lieu of addressing City Council's request for more participation for the "HOTEF" event, Steve had suggested inclusion of the Classic Cars show. Other ideas

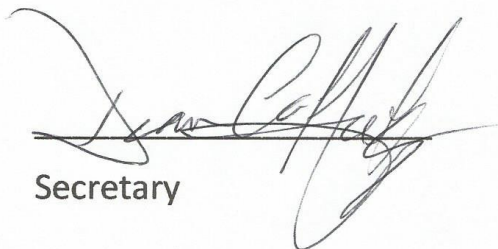
talked about were keeping the library/museum open at Sims Park and asking for volunteers who could appear in costume for the event as well. In addition, storeowners can still participate by decorating and featuring outdoor areas for enhanced dining and entertainment. Steve further commented that for the event (now unofficially scheduled for September 24th) that there would be an LED screen rivaling that of Sims Park's at one end of Nebraska and at the other end of Nebraska there would be a live band (such as The Caribbean Chillers) performing on a mobile stage. Committee members joked saying that they would agree to hold signs that said "We Want Beer" protesting, of course, the age of prohibition. The subject of selling tickets for the rescheduled event was also mentioned as a possibility. The Chair suggested that a well-lit area such as Cavalaire Square or a back patio would provide anadequate lighting for a successful ticket sale drive.

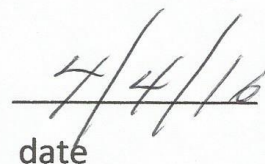
Doreen advised that she is in the process of obtaining a list of celebrated events from our Sister City, Cavaliere sur Mer to help Cultural Affairs coordinate with the Sister City events. Committee members thanked Steve Schurdel for his attendance and participation. A final comment by Steve was to not hesitate to contact him regarding a Cultural Affairs event that the committee would like for him to promote as an advertised event on HITS106.

Committee members now moved on to the issue of new events. Gina Marie had recommended a "tie in" of French elements with the "Dulcet Restaurant and Lounge." The Chair voiced her approval. The Secretary proposed that the City sponsor a Kayak / Paddleboard event starting from James Earl Grey Preserve or Frances Avenue Park to Sims Park. (Gina Marie approved that general direction as it was downstream.) The Secretary further promoted that idea by stating that the 1.5 or 3 mile event was much less strenuous than the 5.5 mile course at the Weeki Wachee launch site. The Chair mentioned liability concerns and that there would need to be a business to sponsor the event. Gill Dawg was mentioned as a possible sponsor; however they may require a "take out" at Gill Dawg. The Secretary recommended "Wild-N-Water Sports" as a possible sponsor since they advertise "put ins" at James Earl Grey Preserve, Frances Avenue Park, and Sims Park with (as per their advertisement) "multiple options for takeout points below Grey Preserve or launch and return to the Preserve."

Due to an increase in Committee business, the next scheduled Cultural Affairs meeting will be held on April 18th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned 7:53 pm.


Secretary


date