

## Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting

February 20, 2019

The regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Committee was called to order at the New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Center at 6:35pm on February 20, 2019. Board Members Richard Melton, Kelly Smallwood, Lisa Marie Dolcy, Gina DiGregorio, Cynthia Contreras, and staff liaison KC Quaretti were in attendance. Stephanie Schwarm, Dell DeChant, Jessica Glass, Joseph Karl, Glen Cort, Bob Smallwood, Liz Meisner, and Natalie (from Ordinance One) also attended as guests.

The Minutes presented from the January 16, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

### NEW BUSINESS: (New business was addressed first.)

- Florida Loquat Festival – Application (distributed) Dell DeChant thanked everyone for entertaining the proposal and explained what the festival is all about. The Loquat Festival has been held locally for the past 6 years and draws people from all over the world. He is asking for additional support this year in order to make improvements; to purchase Harvesting Tools, T-shirts, and Canning Supplies. It is a not-for-profit organization that has an economic impact on the community; the loquats may be grown locally and vendors sell the jellies and jams. A unanimous vote was made to donate the requested funds for the Loquat Festival. Dell agreed to include the CAC on the promotional materials (posters) and Gina said she would look for the CAC emblem.
- Florida Orchestra Ensemble – Proposal (distributed) The CAC can have the Florida Orchestra Brass Ensemble perform at the Richey Suncoast Theatre in December and tie in to other Holiday events downtown as part of a Magical Musical Holiday Season. There is an estimated budget of \$12,000 that would be used to cover the costs (\$8,000 Ensemble; \$3,000 Marketing; \$1,000 Miscellaneous). The pros and cons were discussed and then everyone voted to approve the recommendation to bring the Florida Orchestra to come to the City of New Port Richey to perform at this event and to use the funds needed to cover the aforementioned costs. KC will assist in facilitating this event.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- CAC Renewal Terms – 2 Members Expiring – Gina and Cynthia are to apply to the City Clerk (Judy) to renew their terms on the CAC.
- CAC Meeting Attendance & Resignation – Membership Drive – One new application was received tonight from Stephanie Schwarm. Donna will forward the application to Judy. There are 2 alternate positions open on the CAC.
- Update for Current Projects: Speaker Series – The last in the Florida Humanities Speaker Series will be next Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
- Smithsonian Museum Hometown Teams Traveling Exhibit – There will be a Tailgate Party to celebrate the opening on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Press and Council people will be invited. Also, there will be a Pep Rally on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. The High School Marching Band and some athletic teams will be there. CAC members were encouraged to share the information and invite people to come and see the exhibit and listen to the invited speakers.
- Sculpture Walk packet – This has been approved and the next step is getting the dimensions and cost for the sculpture bases. The bases need to hold the weight of each sculpture and keep its integrity, since it will be permanent.
- Bike Racks – The packet has not been prepared; the group that Bob met with several months ago has not been able to meet again to make further progress on the project.
- Holiday Decorating Contest – Job Connections did not receive their check because they were closed. Kelly asked Rich if he would bring the award check to Job Connections.
- 5-Year Plan Ideas – Rich is putting this together. Ruth Ann will put it in a spreadsheet that can be updated at the meetings.

### VOX POP:

- The CAC meetings need to be changed on the public meeting schedule from the third Monday of the month to the third Wednesday. (notify the City Clerk)
- Joseph Karl mentioned that he has a new business downtown that is connected with musicians. He wants to bring bigger acts, partner with Ordinance One, expand to 6 or 7 venues; and educate business owners on how to work with and promote musicians.
- Everyone should come and participate in the Guinness World Record attempt to have the largest gathering of people wearing Hawaiian or Aloha shirts on April 13 at 4pm; just before the “Beach Boys” concert at Sims Park.

- There was a question about the regular use of the Richey Suncoast Theatre.
- The next meeting will be held in the Recreation and Aquatic Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:30pm.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina DiGregorio

Secretary

GD: dcf