

## **Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting**

March 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 March 20, 2019. Board Members Richard Melton, Lisa Marie Dolcy, Cynthia Contreras, Ruth Ann Jackson, potential new member Stephanie Schwarm and staff liaison KC Quaretti were in attendance. Glen Corp attended as a guest.

VOX POP: Volunteers are needed for the Smithsonian on Fridays. We are reaching out to local groups to attend. Please let KC know if you are available or know of anyone that can volunteer this Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes presented from the February 20, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

\*A question was asked by one of the members if voting on an agenda item could be delayed to another time. Making a Motion to Table an item for the next meeting was given as a solution. Sometimes timing of an agenda item is an issue. Anyone asking for funding should plan 6 months ahead to give everyone a chance to think about it and discuss it.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Sculpture Walk Bases – Other towns have these; some are on the sidewalk, some have a 4” base, all have to be able to support a certain amount of weight for an extended period of time. It will be included in the application to have the artist say what type of base is needed for their sculpture. KC is continuing to discuss this with other towns/cities and see how they handle it.
- Florida Humanities Speaker Series – This was considered a success and everyone wants to have it again next year.
- Smithsonian Hometown Teams Exhibit – This has been made possible from CAC matched grant funding. The Marketing and promotion for this has been impressive. Social media presence has had (3,100) nearly 3 times more response than Pasco County Florida Sports Coast and Visit Florida combined (470). Feedback from the Florida Humanities Council has been complimentary; they have said that nobody has promoted it like the City of New

Port Richey with news coverage, newspaper articles, and on-line. \*Rich wants to use the displays for the Recreation & Aquatic Center, the City Library, etc. in the City, to utilize advertising. KC is meeting with the FHC next week and will find out where the exhibit will be stored after it is “retired”. \*A question was asked about who is keeping a record of the volunteer hours/is someone signing their work timesheets? Ruth Ann is sending flyers to school Career Counselors and will take some flyers to the nearby park to tell people about it.

- Florida Loquat Festival – 9am-2pm (& Literary Festival – 1-3pm) – It is suggested that everyone get to Frances Avenue Park early because the jams and jellies will sell out quickly. Loquat Tea was sent to a Global Tea Competition and won “Silver” for fruit tea. There will be some at the festival. It is the only Loquat Festival in the U.S. The CAC is supporting it.
- Florida Orchestra Ensemble – It had been discussed to have them perform at the Richey Suncoast Theatre. The performance is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. It is a free event, with limited tickets available. It is not a fund-raising activity, but is designed to bring a cultural experience to the City. Music may be piped outside to add to the holiday atmosphere. (Ideas and discussion about the event were exchanged. Details will be worked out at a future meeting.)

\*Glen Cort asked the goal of the CAC and the answer was to provide a culturally educational experience in the City including through Music and Art. Sometimes the impact on the community can’t be measured in dollars.

- \*Cynthia brought up the Christmas Tree Lighting in the City this past year was less than spectacular (the tree was small) and she would like to see something like the Musical Christmas Tree Light Show at Wiregrass Mall. She would also like to see “snow” added to the event. Richard directed her to do some research into the cost of having a musical tree and said we will discuss it at the next CAC meeting. How much funding will be available for the project is questionable since the CAC wants to do the Holiday Window Decorating Contest again. (There was brief discussion about the other holiday events; Winter Arts & Crafts Festival, Winter Art Show, and the possibility of adding a Photo Contest.)
- 5 Year Plan – One project is putting the likeness of **Mr. Sims in the Park** as a “photo op”. The **Bicycle Racks** have already been voted on (\$3,000) to go ahead and will not have a huge impact regarding cost. **Outdoor Murals** (adding more) – Let’s get a side committee to look. (Greater New Port Richey Main Street may get involved.) **½ Wall at Sims** needs painting. (Artist to make proposals; concept to go before City Council for approval.) **Crosswalk at Sims** needs to be cleaned and re-painted; it’s actually pulling up from the pavement in places. (Rich will call street painting companies to find out what type of paint should be used to make the crosswalk brighter and the cost to fix it. Is it something that can be done “in-house” (Public Works/Parks)? Or does it need to be out-sourced?)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Social Media Posting of Events – Open Discussion – Please keep sharing and posting on Facebook about the Smithsonian Exhibit. Facebook Ads have been purchased and each speaker was boosted. An event page was created and it is being cross-promoted with Bob Langford and the Historical Society.
- The next meeting will be held in the Recreation and Aquatic Center on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 6:30pm.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina DiGregorio

Secretary

GD: dcf