

Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting

June 19, 2019

The regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Committee was called to order at the New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Center at 6:50pm on Wednesday, June 19, 2019. Board Members Richard Melton, Kelly Smallwood, Gina DiGregorio, Cynthia Contreras and staff liaison Chris Bornfleth were in attendance. Annamae, Councilman Chopper Davis, and Jeff DeSantis, attended as guests.

VOX POP:

- There were introductions all around the table between guests and CAC Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The Minutes from the May 15 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Sculpture Walk Update/Call for Artists/Cost to City Council for Approval – A map of Sims Park with the planned locations of each sculpture was distributed to all in attendance. A photo of each location was attached to the map. The walk will be a ¼ mile loop. One location may be slightly adjusted by PW due to its proximity to a utility box. The costs of the bases needs to be finalized and then presented to City Council for approval. The call for artists may go out after the approval.
- Florida Orchestra – Ticket Distribution - On the map just distributed, the Community Congregational Church is located between #2 and #3. There are 300 seats in the Church and we need to discuss how the free tickets are to be distributed.
 1. By Drawing/Raffle/Lottery
 2. City Residents Only
 3. Each Councilmember and a guest plus City Manager and a guest
 4. The performance may be heard from outside of the Church, as well. Patrons may bring their own chairs. PA will have to be provided; maybe IT can put the live performance on the TVs.

5. Registrations/applications may be turned in to the RAC, and possibly the Library, for the drawing.
6. The seating will be first-come, first served (not assigned seats). Each ticket should be two parts; one ticket for the person and one for them to bring a guest.
7. Advertising for the event and ticket applications needs to be put on Facebook, the electronic boards in Sims Park, flyers at the RAC and at the Library

Kelly made a motion to recommend that a registration/application form be created (as outlined above), advertisement for the event and ticket distribution to begin October 1st, and that applications be available from November 1st through the deadline of Thanksgiving; with the drawing being held on December 1st. The winners would need to be notified and tickets picked up by December 10th; a second drawing would be done on December 15th for the number of unclaimed tickets, those winners contacted, and then those tickets picked up before the event on December 21st. The motion was seconded by Cynthia and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

A motion was made to offer City Council Members, CAC Members, and the City Manager a ticket, as well as an extra ticket to each of them to bring a guest. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Kelly wanted to see the cost for the Florida Orchestra, the PA System, and Clean-up, and any other projected costs for the event.

A question was brought up if the road would be closed; the answer was that the roads would not be closed, the Historical Society will be open, Art will draw people into the Park, there will be other things going on throughout the day (including a concert at 7pm) to hopefully keep attendees downtown to shop, eat, and enjoy the holiday atmosphere. Kelly again mentioned that she wanted to be updated on the exact costs.

- Holiday Window Decorating Contests – 2019 & Photo Contests are tabled for the next meeting, as Ruth Ann is trying to get sponsors for these projects.
- Christmas Tree Update – Cynthia has not received any more quotes for this project. Discussion was held and ideas exchanged about the possibility of getting GRNPR MS to take this on, where the tree would be stored, touching base with the Chamber of Commerce about it. (Further discussion is tabled until Cynthia speaks with Liz and the Chamber- the project can be done in 2020, not this year.)
- Smithsonian & Speaker Series – No Expense to CAC – There is no more funding for the Speaker Series for the upcoming year.
- There are funds available through the State and grants for a Children’s Museum. It is better to build from scratch and not have it in an existing building downtown. There are a lot of options - \$23 million for a permanent museum; not going to be profitable, but will be a cultural experience to those in the community. Exhibits could be rotated through;

for children, young adults, seniors. An educational element could be included; possibly partnering with a hospital. A permanent employee/curator would need to be there, costs would need to also include utilities. Maybe businesses would sponsor/contribute funding; grants would also need to be written.

- Art Show Update – The special event that was scheduled for the beginning of December is not going to come to New Port Richey. The Winter Art Show that the Parks & Recreation Department does each year is still planning to be held this year. (Pros and cons of having it at the RAC/inside and outside/at Sims Park were briefly discussed.) The CAC would like to see the winners' art work displayed for some time after the event, perhaps inside the RAC.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Annual Report – July 16th Council Meeting – Rich will present the report that will include the accomplishments of the CAC, projects being worked on and future projects being considered.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina DiGregorio, Secretary