

# Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting

December 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Cultural Affairs Committee was held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Board Members Anna Mae McNally, George Romagnoli, Kelly Smallwood, Chairman Richard Melton, and staff liaison Kevin Adams were in attendance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- October 20, 2021 – The Minutes were unanimously approved.

## VOX POP:

- At the last meeting, the owner of SIP had asked for in-kind support for the Golf Cart Parade. This activity was not considered to be “Cultural”, and therefore, the CAC did not consider the request nor make a recommendation for funding. Kevin made the CAC aware that other requests may be presented to them from other future event organizers. The CAC wants defined what is considered “cultural” before the event organizer is invited to the meeting. The CAC is to advance the recommendation to the CM. The Special Events team will try to filter out those events that are not considered “cultural, but the event organizers may still attend the public meeting to ask for the funding/in-kind support.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Mural & Art Master Plans research – Rich wants to know if anyone has done a building-by-building plan for potential mural placement? (No) Would it be a benefit to the City to identify buildings and mural artists for downtown? Train mural was painted over...was that approved, & how? Kevin did some research into Mural Plans for other Cities, towns, etc. Most of the plans found fall under “Public Art Plans”. Some of the research Kevin did is under review with the City Manager. Kevin passed around some of the plans from other cities: Ocala, Sarasota, Dunedin. Rich commented that the cost should be proportionate to the size/demographics of the city. The aforementioned cities are much larger than the City of New Port Richey. Rich asked Kevin to email the information to him.

George commented that there are two aspects to consider: 1. City Sponsored Murals 2. Private Businesses (why would they ask permission from the City?) Kevin commented that in the Master Plan for Art (in other cities), the art is approved by a similar committee, then Council would approve the funds to implement the art. \*(There was further discussion about Fitzgerald's, the crosswalk at Sims Park, other earlier murals, artists, and recommendations that have been done in the past.) George commented that he may speak at the Council meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The CAC wants to pick out some buildings suitable for Murals, go to the owners and get an agreement that they want a mural, have the City pay for the mural implementation, and have the agreement that the building owner must keep the mural there for a specific minimum of time. George commented that he will speak with the Finance Manager to see how much funding is in the Public Art Fund. Rich commented that he would like to have several (maybe 10) murals done all at once; like an event.

- 2021-2022 Budget – The CAC discussed the suggestion to decide how they would like to use the funds allocated for the year toward cultural activities, rather than wait for others to come forward and ask for in-kind support for their activities. Rich suggested that the CAC should be helping the Richey Suncoast Theatre; maybe make it possible for elementary students to perform at the Theatre, instead of in the school cafeterias.
- Sculpture Walk – It was suggested that someone with a background in planning be hired by the City to assist the CAC in implementing plans for cultural activities.
- CAC Membership Drive – Can an announcement be put in the City water bills? The City newsletter/Bridge? On Facebook?

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Let's brainstorm and decide what we want to see; the Florida Orchestra? Let's make a list, prioritize, and then implement it. What do other cities do that we want to have in New Port Richey?
  1. Crosswalks
  2. The Florida Orchestra perform in Richey Suncoast Theatre
  3. A Play in the Park
  4. Whimsical Statues throughout the City
  5. Cast sculptures of Manatees, Turtles, Dolphins (and the like)
  6. Valentine's Day decor
  7. Music in the streets
  8. A DJ playing music on the back of a truck
  9. Farmer's Market/Craft Show – everyone could paint a square to make part of a large mosaic/picture

Let's discuss and prioritize all of this at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Donna Hallmark*

*Recreation Administrative Assistant*

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