

MINUTES  
ARTS AND HUMANITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
December 7, 2017

Present were the following members of the Arts and Humanities Advisory Board: Ms. Charlene Brownson, Dr. Michaeline Chance-Reay, Mr. Aaron Oleen, Ms. Julie Pentz, Mr. Wayne Goins, and Ms. Hilary Wahlen.

Absent was Ms. Rebecca Hackemann-Bahlmann.

Employees present at this meeting were Mr. Randi Clifford, Director of Recreation, and Ms. Lindsey Sparlin, interim Recreation Coordinator.

Mr. Oleen called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 2nd meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wyatt Thompson introduced new park planner Alfonso Leyva. Mr. Thompson discussed with the Board different types of art to incorporate into the parks. Mr. Thompson presented that for the January or February meeting there would be a draft of plans for what they are doing with the Park at Lee Mill Heights that it will show sites that are open for artwork; then discussion can take place about what the Board will be able to do from there. Mr. Oleen offered to help locate artists and different artwork for the parks. He also asked for a say in future plans and is willing to put together a subcommittee. Mr. Thompson addressed that the Loma Ridge entrance is open for forms of art and thinks there are a number of ways to incorporate it. Mr. Thompson also presented to the Board that the priority for the community is safe, accessible entrances and improved play area. There was discussion about the expenses and how art can be incorporated into design after the initial construction estimate. Discussion of the western part of Manhattan's Miller Parkway and Scenic Drive took place, the park planners are looking for additions to the sidewalks and providing safer access to the trails. Mr. Thompson will have maps and allow for a more detailed talk at a future meeting. Ms. Wahlen suggested hands on "sculptures" within the play areas, she also brought images that suggest ideas for the parks. Ms. Wahlen will email Mr. Thompson the examples that were discussed.

Tal Streeter Project Update

Mr. Oleen reported that we missed the grant submission that took place in October. Mr. Oleen said that the Greater Manhattan Community Foundations is looking for something like this project. The next grant submission will possibly take place in the spring of 2018. Ms. Wahlen was curious about the amount of money that would be available since there was just a grant presented. Mr. Oleen and Mr. Clifford expressed that there would be a dedicated funding source to be requested for future grants.

Mr. Clifford announced that he had spoken with Bruce McMillian and that Mr. McMillan is okay with the project and all of the other information was presented to him. Mr. Clifford is waiting to receive an estimate from Mr. McMillan about evaluating site feasibility and a cost estimate for

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construction. Discussion followed about the different projects that Mr. McMillan has worked with in the community. Mr. Clifford indicated that architect fees could potentially be paid for by the Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department. Discussion followed about how the funding is obtained by Manhattan Parks and Recreation and how the estimate given by Mr. McMillan would show what direction we could take. The goal of the project was stated to honor Mr. Streeter and potentially become an iconic structure for the entire town of Manhattan. Ms. Wahlen discussed with the board that getting K-State students involved would need to be department wide. Ms. Wahlen stated she would find out what the deadline on getting the information to the teachers would be so they have time to relay the project to the students.

NEA Grant Committee

Mr. Clifford reviewed with the Board the opportunity to work with the Chamber of Commerce to pursue an NEA Our Town Grant opportunity in 2018. It was restated that The City of Manhattan will need to partner with a local arts organization such as the Manhattan Arts Center. We would like to create a steering committee to assist with planning efforts to apply for this grant and would like to have representation from our Board. The planning would have to start in the next couple of months and be ready by mid-summer to be able to present a strong application in the fall. Ms. Pentz questioned if Kansas State University would be able to be a partner or if they were considered a government organization. There was discussion about her grant writing experience and availability. Ms. Pentz said she would talk to a member of the Office of Research at K-State and report back at the next AHAB meeting.

Mr. Clifford explained that the purpose of pursuing this grant opportunity would be to secure funding to create a public art policy and plan for the Manhattan community in cooperation with local business leaders. Mr. Oleen questioned how the funding would be used and the purpose of a consultant. There was discussion about what consultants do, how they advocate and network to ultimately convince the city commissioners that these projects would better the community. Mr. Goins expressed his networking knowledge and what he has observed with the City of Salina and felt that there is growth occurring that could potentially be brought to Manhattan. It was decided that there was research that needed to be further discussed outside of the Board that would be brought to the next AHAB meeting. It was considered that Mr. Oleen, Mr. Goins, Ms. Wahlen, and possibly Ms. Pentz would be on the committee but it would be finalized at a later date.

Annual Report

Mr. Clifford stated that he will go back and look at minutes from past AHAB meeting and create the annual report. He stated that he would send it out prior to the next meeting for the Board to review.

AHA! Manhattan – Representative from Board

Mr. Clifford presented that the Board should consider having someone sit in on the AHA!

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meetings as a representative. Ms. Brownson stated that she already attends the meetings and would be the representative. Dr. Reay stated that she had interest in going to the meetings as well. Ms. Brownson is to email her the meeting schedule.

Salina Arts & Humanities Commission – resource information

Mr. Clifford stated that he would send out the information as soon as he locates where it is saved.

Staff Reports

Mr. Clifford informed the Board of staff resignations from Ginny Pape and Tarica Lare. Lindsey Sparlin is working as interim Recreation Coordinator for most of the Arts & Humanities duties and Daniel Myers-Bowman has been hired in an interim capacity to work with Arts in the Park and Youth Theatre for next summer.

Mr. Clifford indicated that he has attempted to follow-up with the mayor on the number of potential Board candidates who had submitted interest forms for consideration but has heard nothing back about any appointments.

Other Business

Mr. Clifford passed out the information given to him by Dr. Reay on the tax bill that could potentially have a negative impact of funding for arts and other nonprofit sectors. Mr. Clifford will send out the attachment that Dr. Reay shared with him.

Mr. Oleen presented that Manhattan Art Centers Board is wanting to do a monthly Art Walk on the third Thursday of every month. The walk would be similar to First Friday that takes place in Kansas City. Mr. Oleen said he would find out more and report back on the next AHAB meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.