

MINUTES

Douglass Community Center Advisory Board

Thursday, April 8, 2021

5:45 p.m. – Zoom

Board Members Present: Ms. Deb Nuss, Chair, Ms. Connie Birdsong, Ms. Maureen Sheahan, and Mr. Kevin Bryant.

Douglass Center: David Baker, Director; and Ms. Kyliah Kellermann.

Absent: Mr. Blane Hope.

Guests: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director; Mr. Zachary Bayless, Recreation Supervisor; Director Dennis Butler; and Officer Ryan Doehling.

MINUTES

Ms. Nuss called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Sheahan, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 11, 2021. On 3-0-1 vote. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Butler updated the committee on crime statistics and two new programs: Safe CAM and the Next-door neighborhood app.

Office Doehling updated on a possible traffic study for the area now that the Activity Center is open.

Mr. Thompson shared the City is working on parking construction design and some of this will be covered to address patron safety and reduce speed. He is working with Public Works. Decision was made to wait until Wyatt completes his work and gets back to the Advisory Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Baker thanked everyone who participated in the Douglass Activity Center grand opening as it was a grand success. To date, 191 have signed up for their free access to the facility and 33 have signed up for the fitness area membership.

The closing hours were moved to 8p.m. as the Activity Center had seen no use after 7:30p.m. This allows to adjust the hours of staff and have better coverage.

Riley County Health Department will be administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the Douglass Center on Friday, April 9, 2021 from 3 – 5p.m. Mr. Baker indicated they would not be able to provide this community service if it had not been for our new facility that allowed the growth to meet meeting our community needs.

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCES AND BY-LAWS

Ms. Nuss explained the 3 sections of concern in the Douglass Advisory Board Ordinance Bylaws: Composition of the Board, Human Rights Board ex-officio, and Advisory Board powers. After much discussion, Board members will review the bylaws and discuss at the May meeting. Mr. Baker will make sure that all members receive a copy of the bylaws to review prior to next month's meeting.

DAC MURAL ARTIST SELECTION

Mr. Thompson gave an overview of the project and presented the top three entries selected by the committee that was made up of 2 Advisory Board members, Arts and Humanities Board members, and the community at-large. There were 7 submissions with one being disqualified for not providing required information. The committee selected work by Eugene Byrd III as their first choice, work of Blane Stafford second, and Dan Toro as the third choice. Mr. Thompson presented the submissions to the Douglass Center Advisory Board for their recommendation to be taken to the City Commission for approval. The Douglass Center Advisory Board unanimously recommended that the artist concept by Mr. Eugene Byrd III be accepted as their ultimate choice. It was moved by Ms. Birdsong, seconded by Ms. Sheahan, to recommend Mr. Eugene Byrd III as the selected artist for the Douglass Activity Center Mural Art Project to City Commission. On 4-0 vote. Motion carried.

The Advisory Board members requested along with the mural; an artist project statement describing the mural content will also be installed with the mural as an educational/interpretive component. This could include, but not be limited to, broad stroke of the mural content that pays homage to the black history of Manhattan and includes items such as first public black school – first public black swimming pool – Bethel AME Church.

The mural will be unveiled on Saturday, June 19, 2021, during the Manhattan Juneteenth Celebration.

OTHER BUSINESS

Everybody Counts will occur August 7, 2021, taking into consideration masks and social distancing. Anyone interest in helping this year is more than welcome to attend the meeting from 12 – 1p.m. on Thursday, May 27.

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Meeting Adjourned.