



Official Minutes of the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Location: Library Conference Room, 3900 Main Street

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Mary Drayer at 6:35 p.m. and a quorum was present.
 - *Members present: Mary Drayer, Hugo Martinez, Jerry Barshop, Laqueata Brown, Veena Valiaveedu and Cassie Wilson.*
 - *Members absent: Jerry Hickman.*
 - *Guest: Jim Grabenhorst, Director of Economic Development.*
 - *Staff present: Kathy Freiheit and Brenda Kennedy.*

- 2) Consider approving minutes from the regular meeting May 8, 2012.

Motion made by Jerry Barshop to accept the May 8, 2012 meeting minutes as written; Hugo Martinez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Discuss the need for a cultural art center with Economic Development Director Jim Grabenhorst.
 - *Jim Grabenhorst was introduced to Commission members and shared details on his professional background.*
 - *Mary Drayer gave Mr. Grabenhorst a short history of the Commission's desire for a cultural arts center in Rowlett. Local area performers (artists, musicians, actors, etc.) have to go outside the city to rent performance facilities. A center could bring people into the city and possibly generate revenue. ^{H. Martinez} Drayer explained that several years ago, the City held a bond election with one of the items being expansion of the library with a small auditorium. The bond failed, but some Commission members were concerned that if a small auditorium was built, citizens would think the City had no need for a cultural arts center. Commission has discussed a facility seating 800 to 1,000 people, with dressing rooms, an exhibit area, a smaller theater, and space for outside performances. The Garland art center (Granville Performing Arts) is booked much of the time, as well as other local performance venues.*
 - *It was also mentioned that the City did a facilities study in 2009 and quality of life issues were at the bottom of a 20-item list. Mr. Grabenhorst asked if there had been any change in citizen support since 2009.*
 - *Mr. Grabenhorst posed these questions: What are the community needs; What would the ongoing operational costs be to the City for a facility; What would it cost to rent the facility; Have there been any discussions with foundations/benefactors to kick-start the project; Has the City done anything like "art in park" with vendors, etc. Also posed the idea of starting small and building big; discussed Realize Rowlett 2020 and development plans.*
 - *Commission members discussed the concept of "branding" for the City, perhaps in association with an annual festival or special event.*

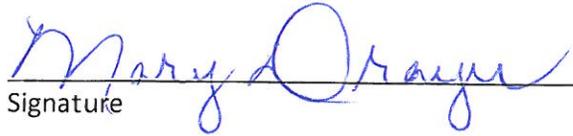
- 4) Review budget overview from prior month.
 - *Current budget balance at \$1,098.77; upcoming expenses to be paid: Photography contest (\$600) and Arts in Education grants (\$500).*

- 5) Review, discuss and award Arts in Education grants.
- *Commission reviewed Arts in Education grant applications received.*
 - *Motion made by Hugo Martinez to award \$250 grant to Rowlett Elementary for the purchase of recorders for students, and \$250 grant to Rockwall Christian Academy for supplies needed for a sculpture project. Motion seconded by Veena Valiaveedu; motion passed unanimously. Schools will be notified and checks mailed in August.*
- 6) Update from standing committees:
- *Writing Contest*
 - *Received 43 entries (27 youth and 16 adult).*
 - *Winners were presented during the June 5, 2012 City Council meeting.*
 - *Mary Drayer will send a "thank you" to Steve Cobb for his assistance in judging the contest this year.*
 - *Photography Contest*
 - *Theme is "All Things Texas".*
 - *Mary Drayer has the flyer ready and will publicize August 1st. Mary will forward information to Cassie Wilson for publicity (newspapers, city email, website, etc). Suggested members take flyers to local businesses and ask if they will post. Flyers will be ready for members to pick up at library by August 1st.*
 - *Young Artists Exhibit*
 - *No report given.*
 - *Arts in Education*
 - *Veena asked for this item to be included on the August agenda. Would like to discussed and take possible action, if needed, regarding the grant submission time frame.*
 - *Publicity*
 - *Cassie Wilson reminded members to send her publicity information and inform when you would like the information to be released.*
- 6) Public Announcements.
- *Lakeshore Symphonic Winds concert planned for October 27, 2012 at the Granville Performing Arts Center.*
 - *Kathy Freiheit announced the Rowlett Community Chorale performed at the Parent – Child Tea Party on May 12, 2012 and performance was enjoyable and beautiful.*
 - *Rowlett Community Chorale tentative dates for future concerts, October 22 and December 21.*
- 7) Future topics.
- *Call to order*
 - *Consider approving minutes of the previous meeting*
 - *Follow-up on discussion with Economic Development Director Jim Grabenhorst regarding a cultural arts center*
 - *Review budget overview from prior month*
 - *Review and take possible action on Arts in Education grants time frame*
 - *Receive updates and take possible action from standing committees:*
 - *Writing Contest*
 - *Photography contest*
 - *Young Artists Exhibit*
 - *Arts in Education grants*
 - *Publicity*
 - *Public announcements*

- *Future topics*
- *Adjournment*

9) Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved by the Rowlett Arts and Humanities Commission:


Signature


Date