

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

CITY OF BEDFORD §

The Cultural Affairs Commission of the City of Bedford, Texas, met in regular session at 6:30 pm at the Bedford Public Library, 2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX on the 21st day of January, 2013 with the following members present:

Alicia McGlinchey, Chair
Ray Champney
Tom Jacobsen
Lee Koch
Barbara Speares

Constituting a quorum

Others present included:

Beverly Griffith – Staff Liaison
Mirenda McQuagge-Walden - Staff Liaison
Patricia Nolan – Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Alicia McGlinchey called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approval of the following Cultural Commission minutes:
 - January 7, 2013 regular meeting.

Mr. Ray Champney made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 5, 2012 meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Jacobsen. The motion passed 5 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Formulate the report to the City Council regarding the cultural assessment process.

Ms. McGlinchey stated that she was feeling much better about the draft report and appreciated Ms. Griffith assisting her with putting together the document. They spent several hours one afternoon working on it.

The Commission reviewed the report and provided feedback.

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The city is at a crossroads with regard to the construction schedule. It is important for the Cultural Commission to present their findings and recommendations now while the highway project is underway, and the city has the opportunity to implement a strategic plan around the “cultural destination” focus which will provide long term benefits for Bedford in terms of attracting businesses, homeowners, and investment as well as enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Bedford.

The thought is rather than have developers determine the strategic plan for development, the Commission believes this is an opportunity for the City to provide requirements which have incorporated some or all of the findings of the Commission – including but not limited to many interviews with and surveys taken from citizens and prominent entities (school district, community college, arts groups, artists, facility owners in Bedford as well as successful facility groups in other cities).

A suggestion was made to include in the council presentation the application for the City of Bedford cultural designation. The application is due June 17.

Some members suggested that the focus should be on the strategic development planning discussion and findings of the Commission and revisit the application at a later date.

The appeal of the Library was discussed at length as a recent and excellent example of a successful Bedford investment in a well planned and executed community project that has enhanced the quality of life in Bedford. In particular, the Commission highlighted the great value it has added to Bedford. The Library is a state of the art facility that provides extensive utility and attraction for citizens and visitors to the City. It has great curb appeal, instills a sense of inclusion, and it remains a hub of great activity, encouraging a sense of community. Its state of the art facilities are award winning and well used. Although it cost more than originally budgeted, the Council made the well thought out decision to move forward with the investment and the result is a highly utilized facility that will provide community benefits for many years to come.

The Commission discussed various ideas for communicating their and generating community interest – town hall meetings, utilization of the website, and posting Commission findings.

There was discussion on needs and opportunities and how communication differed from packaging.

Walkability is an important attribute according to an article in D Magazine highlighting the most attractive cities in North Texas.

A sense of community and how easy it is for members of the community to interact and get to know each other is important for neighborhoods and attracting home buyers.

Included in the report should be the risks of not adopting a commitment to a strategic development plan soon while the opportunity is here with the ongoing construction.

It is good stewardship to keep the City vibrant and invest in the future, including investing in the infrastructure to enable growth in the future.

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The City has already made great strides in investing in improving the infrastructure, so it is ahead of the curve.

It was suggested inviting some of the individuals and groups that were interviewed to the Council hearing to show the level of interest and commitment.

Ms. McGlinchey and Mr. Jacobsen will update the presentation based upon the meeting's feedback and forward to city staff to format into a PowerPoint. This presentation will be reviewed by the Commission at the next meeting on February 11, 2013.

There will be a joint meeting between the City Council and Cultural Commission on Monday, February 25.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Barbara Speares motioned to adjourn at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Ray Champney and passed unanimously.

Approved:

Alicia McGlinchey, Chair