

City of St Charles

Cultural Commission Meeting

May 14, 2012

Century Station Training Room

6:00 PM

Call to Order at 6:08 PM

Present: Becker, Hunt, Melone, Brown, Bellaver, Collins, Ainsworth, Manthei (arrived at 6:15)

Absent: Chapin

Also Present: Chris Minick, City of St Charles
Scott Piner, Fox Valley Repertory

Discussion was held regarding an audience survey that Chair Becker distributed. She noted that the Chicago Jazz Ensemble utilizes this type of a survey to gather demographic information about its audience. Discussion was held as to whether the Commission wishes to amend the survey and include it in the funding packet for 2013-2014. General consensus was to keep the survey as a reference for any groups requesting help gathering demographic information.

Kathy Melone made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2012 as presented in the packets. The motion was seconded by Stu Ainsworth.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion then turned to the 2012-2013 allocations. Discussion was held regarding the STC Underground and whether the proposed use of funding as detailed in the application fit with the Commission's mission. After discussion there was general consensus that the STC Underground's proposal did not fit with the mission of the group and as such the group would not receive funding.

There was then general discussion of the funding proposed for the individual groups. Guy Bellaver briefly explained a funding model that he had devised since the last meeting. There was then discussion about the Heritage Center and whether it now needed to be included in a funding allocation since the City had effectively taken ownership of the facility. Additionally there was discussion about whether the Heritage Center's need was as great as it had been historically because of the change in funding for maintenance of the building.

City allocations of the Hotel/Motel Tax stream to the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Pride of the Fox Riverfest Groups were discussed.

Scott Piner, Fox Valley Repertory addressed the Committee and discussed the number of residents served, the impacts of the individual programs undertaken, etc. Additionally, the Commission discussed that this empirical data is intended to increase the overall funding level.

General Discussion of the funding levels was held with major discussion points centering around:

- Should we give preference to groups taking a partnered approach
- Should we revisit the distribution and consider multiple City/taxpayer funding sources when evaluating?
- Should we reduce the Heritage Center back to a more historically consistent level of funding?
- Are there any special situations that need to be addressed?
- Who is progressing and innovating vs. groups that simply do the same thing every year?
- Is the Heritage Center a disproportionate share of the funding annually?

General discussion of the groups then occurred with specific discussion of the Sculpture in the Park event and the Norris Center for the Cultural Arts (NCAC).

The group then discussed whether any of the groups were stagnant and not moving forward. The Commission indicated that all of the groups seemed to be moving forward although there was recognition that some moved at a faster pace than others.

There was then discussion of the optimal funding level for the Commission and how that ties in with the optimal funding levels of each of the groups. There was discussion of polling the groups funded to find out what level of funding they considered to enable them to move forward. There was discussion and direction to devise a questionnaire to obtain this information and then utilize this information to ask City Council for a funding increase. There was also questioning as to whether the City would consider a different funding allocation or method for the Hotel/Motel Tax stream.

Discussion of data gathering and impacts to the application form were discussed and Chair Becker indicated that perhaps a quarterly meeting of a smaller group would be appropriate to gather information and make any changes. There was general support for a summer meeting, with the goal being a subsequent discussion with the Mayor regarding increasing the overall funding for the Commission.

The Commission then noted the great deal of progress that the Steel Beam Theatre had made in its mission and work.

There was discussion regarding the Norris Cultural Arts Center and its operations since the School District had taken over the Center. It was noted that space and scheduling have been somewhat of a challenge and the schedule for 2012-2103 is not yet complete. The NCAC essentially gets many of the dates that the SD303 does not need the facility and that has proven somewhat challenging.

After discussion of the proposed funding schedule (Attachment 1), Jodi Manthei made a motion to accept the proposed funding schedule for the 2012-2013 funding cycle. The motion was seconded by Kathy Melone.

The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

Stu Ainsworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kathy Melone. The motion passed unanimously upon voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Minutes prepared by Chris Minick