

~~Draft~~ Kyle Arts and Cultural Commission

Minutes of Meeting held on June 15, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Kyle Arts and Cultural Commission was held on the third Thursday, June 15, 2023 in the Library, Conference Meeting Room at 550 Scott Street, Kyle, TX

Board Members Present: Vanessa Westbrook, Tera Monroe, Stephanie Murray, Vicky Phrydas, Brooke Pillifant

Absent: Melanie Atkins

Liaison: Michael Kaufmann-Lynch

Public Comments: Kandace Fudge in attendance

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vanessa Westbrook at 7:03 pm.

Consent items: Minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

Continued Business

Update on the Kyle Public Library's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage celebration in May. The event had a good turnout with 25 people participating activities. Food was provided by the Arts and Cultural Commission and catered by two local Asian restaurants.

Update on the Historic Train Depot " Call to All Acrylic Artists" event was held on May 27, 2023. Originally around 20 artists were signed up, but the event had to be postponed due to weather concerns. Eight artists were able to come to the rescheduled painting event. The paintings are now on display in City Hall and a reception will be held on June 16, 2023 with the Peace and Progress dialogue happening right after. Public voting for painting will occur thru July 28, painting with most votes will be turned into a City of Kyle postcard for free distribution.

Update on the Juneteenth celebration held on June 10, 2023. There were several performances in this year's program; the Arts and Cultural Commission assisted Parks and Recreation Department with sponsoring the dance company's performance. A few members of the Arts and Cultural Commission volunteered as docents for the PoP-Up Museum: African American Experience - Our Treasures in the activity center that accompanied the all-day event.

Update on the "Quilts" display scheduled for September 2023. With assistance from other city departments, the Arts and Cultural Commission will put up artistic pieces in city hall as scheduled. Some equipment has already been purchased for the anticipated September display.

The proposed 2023 Art Festival project was addressed with a decision to postpone the event due to a lack of people involved with the project. A much larger number of people would be needed to move forward with the event; a suggestion for dates later in the year was highlighted. A meeting with the Parks Department and other various organizations would be set up to discuss their involvement with the project.

There was an update of the planned budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The City Council sent the budget back and asked for more details regarding some of the projects. Another budget workshop will be conducted by the City Council on July 8, 2023.

New Business

The “Land I Love” project proposal was discussed. The project was initially sent to the economic development department, then the City Manager, and then to the Arts and Cultural Commission. The project aims to promote small towns within the United States. The commercial items will cost \$75,000 and the City of Kyle will have the rights to puzzle for the first year while receiving 100% of the profits during that initial year. If all the puzzles are sold then the City of Kyle breaks even and may even receive a profit. The City of Kyle will not be responsible for housing the puzzles since Eric Dowdle already indicated that the company has a warehouse to store all of the puzzles. The total cost for the project will be \$150,000; the artist is paid \$75,000 for painting plus all of the licensing costs and then the other \$75,000 is for the purchasing of the puzzles. The Arts and Cultural Commission decided to re-discuss the topic over the next few months after concerns were brought up. Michael Kaufmann-Lynch pointed out that the Arts and Cultural Commission doesn’t necessarily have to fund the whole project and can instead ask local organizations and the Chamber of Commerce to donate money for the project.

There was discussion about infusing the idea of from a citizen regarding the use of the proposed quarterly artist meetings for the next fiscal year. Perhaps, creating an art league was address by discussing the use of the current artist database and the proposed quarterly artist meeting. A commissioner asked for this item to be placed on the next month agenda for discussion.

There was a discussion regarding using the budget for purchasing art boxes to put around the City of Kyle. Information is needed and will be brought to the next meeting regarding different companies and carpenters along with estimates. With information from Brooke Pillifant at the July meeting, action be may taken by the Commission.

One of the Commissioner discussed her feeling of frustration with the comments made by two members of the City Council at the June 6, 2023 meeting. It was noted that the Arts and Cultural Commission is a volunteer-based, appointed group of taxpaying citizens who have a love for the ARTS, and have no political agenda. The Arts and Cultural Commission should be treated as such by City Council.

One of the Commissioners discussed using the remaining budget for starting art classes with incarcerated people at the Kyle Correctional Facility or another incarceration center in Hays County.

Announcements

Melanie Atkins contacted the Commission Chair Vanessa Westbrook that she will be resigning from the Arts and Cultural Commission. Her letter will be coming to Chair within the next few days which will detail her reasons for resigning.

Applications closed on June 15, 2023 for the open seat on the Arts and Cultural Commission. Two applicants have applied to be on the Arts and Cultural Commission. Interviews of the applicants will be conducted to fill the empty seat.

It was announced that Assist City Manager Amber Schmeits will be attending future meetings of the Arts and Cultural Commission.

A reminder of dates for upcoming City Council meeting was made for the remaining of June and July with note that the 1st meeting in July will be on a Thursday, due to 4th of July holiday. The next meeting will be held on July 20, 2023.

Motion to adjourn made by Tera Monroe and was seconded by Brooke Pillifant. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Vanessa Westbrook, Chairperson

Stephanie Murray, Secretary