

Minutes from September Arts Advisory Board Meeting (9/1/2009)

Present: Tatiana Ausema, Nicole DeWald, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Andria Jones, Lola Skolnik (chair Park and Recreation Advisory Board), Anna Socrates, Jenise Williamson

- I. Minutes from July meeting approved with no addenda.
- II. No additions to September Agenda
- III. New members (Mark Granfors-Hunt, Jenise Williamson) introduced.
- IV. Discussion of process for evaluating contribution groups with Lola Skolnik (chair, PRAB)

Process:

- AAB and PRAB now review annually (in February) the applications and budgets of contribution groups that seek money and support from city.
- Groups provide budgets and send representatives to the meeting where process is explained and application is reviewed.
- City awards about \$36K to contribution groups in the arts.

Issues:

- Budgets of groups applying for contribution status vary widely in quality and descriptiveness
- Preparing budgets require daunting amount of detail:
 - Account for unexplained numbers
 - How to value volunteer hours and in-kind contributions
 - Form as it is now, tracks PG County form.
 - Form takes place of end-of-year reporting for City.
- Some groups better at fund-raising.
 - City's generosity may be a disincentive to apply for outside funding
 - Federal process to get 501(c)(3) status is daunting and many groups not prepared to go through.
- Need for better accountability and oversight
 - Accountability to City's taxpayers
 - City relies on advisory boards to provide recommendations about groups

Possible Solutions:

- Tweaking form to make it clearer (has been done, but could be looked at again).
- Providing workshops to assist groups in putting together better budgets and learn fundraising skills:
 - Requirement for contribution groups to attend
 - Encouragement to other Greenbelt groups to come
 - Solicit volunteers to train and mentor others
- Make a recommendation that the City Council enforce requirements for contribution groups to match contributions with other funding.
- Recommend that City be more observant on how money is spent
- Create list of resources for groups and list of things groups need help on (include as part of application form)

Timetable:

- Feb 2010 is next application review cycle.
- Get our comments to Lola by 3rd week in November.

Action Items:

- Review applications with numbers for next meeting.
- Bring recommendations about application process to next AAB meeting (10/6).
- Set joint meeting with AAB and PRAB.

V. Other business:

- Google maps can be used to take pictures of public art locations and uploaded onto a Web site.