City of Derby - Cultural Commission

Minutes of May 20, 2019

Dani Soto call the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Rosalie Cota, Richard DiCarlo, China Mayhew, Sarah Miller, Dani Soto, Lisa Brailey

Members absent: Rachael Kenyon and Adrienne Griffith

Members from the public present: Susan Schroeder

Dani Soto opened the meeting by advising the proper email protocol. All email correspondences to him should have Rich DiCarlo copied on them.

The Commission then voted to approve the minutes from 3/25/19 and 4/22/19. All minutes were approved.

The Commission discussed the status of the Derby Scavenger Hunt which is being fronted by Lisa Brailey. Lisa distributed copies of the proposed picture quiz for proofreading. Proofreading was approved. It was then discussed the most efficient way to distribute these quizzes. Dani Soto said he would check about having a printable PDF available on the City of Derby website. The possibility was also discussed of having physical copies available at the Derby Neck Library, City Hall, and Summerfest. The proposed timeline for Derby residents to complete this quiz would be 6/29/19 to 8/31/19. Two winners will be selected, and each will receive a $25 gift card to Retro Pub.

The Commission discussed the possibility of a "Derby Reads" program. It was voted to table that until next year.

The Commission discussed the possibility of an essay contest for scholarships. It was voted to table that until next year.

An assessment of the Cultural Commission's social media presence was then evaluated. This is being fronted by China Mahew. She advised that a Pinterest account and an Instagram account have been established (in addition to the Facebook which is already active). It was then proposed that Cultural Commission's link on the City Hall website be updated (ie: There is a link to an outdated vendor license on there. Also, the Commission members are listed without respective position titles). Dani Soto said he would look into it.

An assessment of progress for Summerfest was next. It was established that 20 vendors have confirmed, so far. Banners and signage to promote Summerfest will go up after Memorial Day. It was proposed that a portion of the Cultural Commission budget should go toward tents, tables, speakers, microphones, and eventually a better sound system. Dani Soto has been looking at sound systems for comparative pricing.

Discussion of possible future endeavors was next. Lisa Brailey proposed a "Beltline Walk" that marks the old trolley line from Derby to Ansonia. She also proposed a possible painting of a mural on the cement wall of the Riverwalk. It was decided to revisit these ideas later for future discussion.

It was then discussed which members would attend the next Alderman meeting (set for 6/13). Rosalie Cota will attend.

The Commission then voted to approve Susan Schroeder as a full member. The vote was unanimous to approve her.

Dani Soto advised he would be ordering polo shirts for Commission members.

Dani Soto moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. All approved this motion

Respectfully submitted,

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Sarah L. Miller Cultural Commission Secretary