

Minutes of the
TOURISM AND ARTS COMMISSION
October 5, 2020
City Hall Council Chambers

Members: Chair Jim Kingwell, Vice Chair Julie Walker, Commissioners Greg Bell, Greg Swedenborg, Mike Morgan and Greg Allen via Zoom

Excused: Steven Sinkler

Staff: City Manager Bruce St. Denis and City Recorder Jennifer Barrett

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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kingwell called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

Kingwell noted with a new member let us all introduce ourselves. The Committee and staff introduced themselves.

FY 20-21 TAF APPLICATION TIMELINE

Kingwell reported we are here to consider the deadline and applications. This morning an email came in looking for an extension to submit to a TAF grant, so we received an inquiry for an extension. This came up as there are several applicants to were confused about the actual deadline and facing the possibility of not have as many programs from the traditional recipients of funding. I am hoping to entertain motion on shifting deadlines from October 1 for an extension whatever the time amount to be. Part of the consideration would be timelines that involve Council and interview timeframes. Bell asked is this a process or miscommunication failure or applicants did not expect to get an email? St. Denis noted we met with council on June 23 and June 26th sent letter to all known applicants which included a notice of deadline extension. Extension notices were posted on website and both post office locations and at City Hall.

Morgan reported I missed a meeting, I thought that we were going to be doing everything in advance until November to see how the COVID situation was. If we are talking about considering applications for events that happen in the next 12 months I would be opposed unless they were online or advertising. I don't see this letting up anytime soon to have events like culinary fest or anything that has people in tight spaces is unimaginable until there is a vaccine. Kingwell replied we do not know what the applications will be for, and that is a strong consideration of what we would support. There could be things that strengthen institutions for the long term. Due to COVID there

will be things that need to be changed. Bell noted I agree with Morgan, however my take on our Committee is it is up to the applicant to make the necessary revisions. Walker noted if it is too late in the year people still need to plan.

Motion: Walker moved to move deadline to October 9th for final applications.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed date. St. Denis noted the November 10th Council meeting can be made a special meeting as well for decisions.

Bell seconded the motion. Bell noted 4 days is tight, but they knew they missed it so they could have been working on it. I am not trying to be tough, and this is unusual, but there was communications and if they did not get it, they should have received the information. We shouldn't do these extensions again, it's an unusual situation.

Vote: Kingwell, Walker, Bell, Swedenborg, Morgan and Allen vote AYE: the vote was 5:0 and the motion passed

A discussion ensued regarding interview dates.

Motion: Walker moved to hold interviews 10/13-14 from 1-4 pm, TAC meeting 10/21 to discuss results from 1-4 pm, and present to Council on November 3rd. Swedenborg seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued regarding the dates moving forward. Bell noted it is up to the applicants to present how to mitigate the situation, we are in a bad place, this is the process, and we continue whether we have the event or not. Morgan added I think we need a special meeting with the Council. St. Denis replied an option is to add to the meeting on the 20th and have the discussion with council on the 20th, then discuss how it will look and happen, then have the interviews and continue the process. Kingwell noted coming from an assumption that people are going to propose things similar than what has done in the past. There would be more content for that discussion if we knew the direction the applicants were going in. I would like to have the interviews before meeting with Council. Walker noted they understand the world is different, and we can push back hard on things in the interview if they don't see possible. Kingwell added the sequence of things are important, though the timing and question of urgency is a valid one. The Committee discussed dates.

Walker amended the motion: Walker moved to change interviews 10/13-14 from 1-4 pm, TAC meeting 10/21 to discuss results at 1-4 pm, then meet with council the week of the 26th. Swedenborg seconded the motion.

Vote: Kingwell, Walker, Bell, Swedenborg and Allen vote AYE; Morgan voted NAY: the vote was 4:1 and the motion passed

Barrett noted the steps moving forward. In response to Morgan's question what is the balance in the fund, St. Denis replied I'll send an email out, giving an overview of funds received. In response to Morgan's question why did we loan the City the money to purchase the school rather than grant it out of the TAF fund, St. Denis replied we wanted to get the school closed and needed a funding source. While it is in line with the use there wasn't the time to meet as a Committee, so Council met to made a decision with repayment plan. Morgan noted I was surprised as it was a good source of TAF money and would recommend that the City not have to repay the loan and consider it a grant from TAF. I think it's the highest priority in the City to develop a performing arts/cultural center. The loan was \$102,000 which is less than a quarter of annual revenues. I would like to see the school project move forward rapidly and with whatever resources TAC can throw at it. St. Denis added one thing facing with this project is cash flow issue. Funds come in July and January from the County. We have used the funds we got in July and we don't have a bunch of money in that account. We hired an engineer/architect to survey the entire building and all the issues. We funded that out of general fund. Whatever comes up if we do anything, we don't have cash to get it started. I think we should do a loan and do it out of proceeds from the County out of the 1% and have money left over, a discussion ensued regarding funding options and TAF funds. St. Denis noted once we receive the report from the engineer/architect we will have a dedicated meeting with Council to discuss the findings that should happen the end of October.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kingwell adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am

Jennifer Barrett, City Recorder