

Minutes of the
TOURISM AND ARTS COMMISSION
June 27, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers

Members: Jim Kingwell, Julie Walker, Steven Sinkler, Greg Bell, Greg Allen, and Libby Gast

Excused: Greg Swedenborg

Staff: City Recorder Jennifer Barrett and IT Director Rusty Barrett

Others: City Attorney Ashley Driscoll

CALL TO ORDER

Sinkler called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

TAF Grant Award Recommendation

Sinkler asked if there were any conflicts to declare.

Walker replied I have no conflicts

Bell replied I may have a conflict with Blush Lux and WOW. We print swag bags

Kingwell replied I have no conflicts

Sinkler replied I will be a site location for Savor Cannon Beach on one of their educational classes they will be offering. Also, for Cottage Tour we are a sponsor, and they may be purchasing some wine from us, and we were contacted by WOW this weekend asking us to sale wine at their kickoff event, however we haven't responded yet.

Gast replied I have no conflicts

Allen replied I have no conflicts

Driscoll said if voting on a recommendation for Council will have a financial impact on you or your associated business then you have an actual conflict of interest and should recuse yourself. If there is a financial impact or detriment, you recuse yourself. Sinkler replied since I am going to be a site location for Savor I should recuse myself. Kingwell added I would be a site location for Savor but don't fee it would be a conflict because it will not have a major impact for me. Driscoll added how the law sees it if you avoid paying a dollar or get a dollar no matter how significant there is a violation. A discussion ensued regarding conflicts of interesting. Driscoll added I would error on the side of caution. You are voting on individually the ones that could or would impact you financially you can recurse from that vote and vote on the rest of the items.

Sinkler stated I will recuse from WOW and Savor

Bell stated I will recuse from WOW and Blush Lux

Sinkler said we will go through the events. We'll start with Allen to Walker then back again. I'd also like to say Thank you Jim Kingwell, this will be your last meeting and we thank you for all you've done.

Sinkler added as a reminder we cannot make a recommendation above what was asked. The Commission provided their recommendations for each applicant.

Gast said for the Comedy Fest, it had a line item of for Coaster rental, but it was a possible in kind. I don't know if they got it in kind the last time or not. Walker replied I am assuming he will get it as they are pretty good at community stuff. Walker asked Kingwell were you a zero last time. Kingwell replied I wasn't. I thought the application was weak and he lifted from the past reports and looked at amount of money asked for the event and how much made, they are attributing 43 rooms to the 2018 event noting concerns. With the amount of money for talent I think we are putting too much money into an event with a minimal impact and didn't see how it different in terms of expenses from Tolovana Arts Colony outside normal expense and didn't see a good return. Walker added he did have a budget and he did a much better job this time and didn't argue with anyone. Given what you just said, justify your number for Savor. The room nights will go down and every event has to start somewhere. I agree it's a fair amount of money. I am not disinterested in this as an event. I don't think that since the time they did it with numbers

that were suspicious I would like to give them the money as we have the reserve and people are coming to town, give them a change to pull it off. Kingwell added from Savor to this one, each offer an image of activity that goes on in town and that does offer a value for people thinking there are multiple aspects for people in town. Savor is a month long event building the image as a place to go for people who are focus on culinary and wine. I didn't interpret this as a nailed down plan, noting concerns. Sinkler added your response was my response on Blush Lux. The numbers were squishy and had 8 people. I couldn't see giving them a lot of money. Their goal is a 100 and that's aspirational but what they delivered, it was a covid year, but was 8. That was the challenge I had with them; a discussion ensued. Allen noted I thought Blush Lux should be a part of the artist program. Sinkler replied it should be a part of the WOW if anything. Walker added but I understand why it was broken out as part of a VIP. Allen said organizing events are tough. You have to have the date and information. Bell noted on the Comedy Fest, we are back from a few years down and he did a better job, my concern about this one over time, if you don't get funding from TAF could you survive. Walker added I think about Get Lit and they will never break event. Think about what this does for our town. What does it bring? Without us, Comedy Fest would probably never happen, a discussion ensued.

Gast said I was fascinated about what part of our budget are we wanting to spend. Kingwell added Coaster is asking for 20% of their overall budget. Is it a percentage of the budget for special events only or overall budget. I focused on the fact that this shows public support for this which effects their tax status. I think it's critical that we continue supporting this for the image of town. Walker added the reserve is so high I was tempted to give what they asked for. We did that back in 2018, but I am worried about a recession happening and reserves are always nice. Some of these people could use a pull back a little to keep them creative. I did full on for a several, the remainder pulled down \$2,000. I am concerned about the school building maybe needing some of the reserve and in a recession, we may need the reserve. Gast noted I wanted a cushion of \$200,000 in my brain and then I went back to the school. Seems like a no brainer to have the facility match these needs. I want to make sure all these voices are being heard in that funnel of design. Gast added WOW brings people to town and benefits a lot of local businesses. Walked replied and it's on the off season. I talked with Bridget when getting a haircut and she said is struggling with losing a business partners, then covid, then got this handed to me, and was operating on numbers that turned out to be suspect. This is the first year to be ablet grasp and take it on. My numbers were squishy, and Sinkler was right to ask those questions. I feel like there is massive potential with both of those things and this is her first year to prove herself.

In response to Bell's question why no Cannon Beach Gallery events, Kingwell replied it's a difficulty in getting committee heads and active participation, a discussion ensued.

In response to Bell's question did we fund the Cannon Beach sign last year and has anything happened, Walker replied I think Jim Paino said he was going to give the money back as they don't have enough staff to proceed. A discussion ensued regarding the Cannon Beach entry sign.

J Barrett reviewed final number and timeline. Sinkler added recommendations will be going to the July work session, and future meeting dates.

Motion: Walked moved to approve the numbers as discussed; Bell seconded the motion.

Vote: Kingwell, Walker, Sinkler, Bell, Allen, and Gast voted AYE. The motion passed unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sinkler adjourned the meeting at 1:41 pm

Jennifer Barrett, City Recorder