



Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2019

CALL TO ORDER - 5:30 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS *PERFECT ATTENDANCE!*

Irma Hayes
Dr. Carl Byerly
Judy Wilson

Dwayne Anthony Lyons
Mark Stone
Maria Bermudez

Owen Edwards
Renee Voit-Porath
Robert Karazim

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Owen Edwards motion, J Wilson seconded

III. MEETING MINUTES

a. November 11, 2019 Minutes

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT - Irma Hayes acknowledge work of RV Porath and C Byerly to make tree lighting and concerts event successful. Low turnout, about 80, try to make bigger event next year. Lights disappointing. Would like to set up committee to get sponsors for this event, start early in year, ask in January while people still have money. Parade, have to create budget now, and work toward having money to work with. Parade is business, dependent on sponsorship, paid for with in-kind services. That contribution is overlooked. Let's get an accounting of what city pays for - man hours, vehicles used, police, dpw, sound system, greener, man hours = money. Barely had logo visible. If we don't say "this is what we've done" we won't get acknowledgement. Erebus volunteers and Kathy Hank hung banners. Our businesses do a lot for this event. Logo should be present. We were asked for \$750 for display and \$500 for greenery near the end. Identify what City did. Need to show expense toward event. M Bermudez "when I worked for city we had a presence in planning year round, with running total of who contributes what. Involvement and commitment hasn't been there for awhile". Want accounting of what city puts into event.

R Karazim motioned, Irma will ask mayor for accounting, volunteer hours included, C Byerly seconded, all in favor, to get info from mayor and Main Street (\$\$, in-kind) so PAC can make informed decisions. J Wilson requested it be done in the interest of strengthening parade, so present producers don't feel accosted. RV Porath, benefit to doing this can help L Zabik to be supported and appreciated. What does it cost, so we understand. M Bermudez suggested we request parade meeting minutes. R Karazim suggested request what's available with a smile. I Hayes, we need to know what was spent before we can pursue sponsorship. Let's check our own accounting of the part we played.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. International Peace Day Concert Report, Sept 21 - Mark Stone - should say "OU Pontiac Initiative" two events this semester, September, and early November, 4th annual community drum workshop and performance. Went well, approximately 75 people, successful. Dean of college of Arts and Sciences and President Peskovitz(sp?), activity strongly supported by OU leadership. Meeting Thursday with Vice Provost to discuss OU Pontiac Initiative.

M Stone on sabbatical next semester. Will be spring Soul Food, youth focused event, D A

Lyons will speak to this. M Stone will try to attend meetings as activities permit.

C Byerly returned to discussion of holiday concert, low school involvement due to cut in after school programs. He contacted church groups, ACCENT Pontiac, PYREC and Citywide Choir. Packed house, so pleased, but focus shifted from church, city, 6-8 schools in past. This year PAE participated. So do we continue with focus on schools, or shift focus to churches. M Bermudez, with schools the thought was parents will attend, and that hasn't worked lately. C Byerly, we reach out to them late summer. I Hayes, what about citywide competition, perhaps involve OU, to get more participation. O Edwards, if we start earlier, may get response from churches. M Bermudez, a lot of church choirs have to do community service. I Hayes wants to get people walking through town from lighting to different activities through town. R Karazim, what's the hook? M Bermudez, wont get PAE if students have to cross M59. R V Porath, get a crossing guard? I Hayes scatter different choirs throughout downtown area to generate foot traffic. Everyone can choose where they go, who they see. J Wilson, let's get involvement from each choir group/church/school to form committee and fulfill vision. R Karazim suggests start with committee of 50. I Hayes recommend Ministerial Alliance instead, more in line with this particular effort.

- b. Black History Month – Press{?} J Wilson, PCAC exhibit *RISE*, Rochelle Riley speaker sharing new book, new head of Arts and Culture for Detroit, Steven Tette is featured artist. DA Lyons, City does an event every year, an MLK Walk. O Edwards, Antioch Baptist, MLK event, school choir, variety of choirs perform. Oakland County Alliance also does an event, Pastor Jones. R Karazim volunteered to find out what events are happening, and requested info to share with Pastor Jones regarding holiday involvement. I Hayes will get that info to R Karazim, and C Byerly will be the official contact. [Conversation re: holiday event revisited: Discussion regarding contacting schools after Easter to get increase their involvement. It's sooner than usual, but need to get commitment, instead of late summer. Then contact again late summer when schools will know which teachers are on staff to handle their school's involvement. Goal is to maintain school involvement.] R Karazim information sharing and gathering on two topics – holiday / black history - with churches, and will have them contact C Byerly. CB will manage contacting schools.

M Stone, return to BHM discussion, really more of a season, beginning with Dr. MLK celebrations. Say *black history celebration*. J Wilson suggests PAC disseminates info on local celebrations. Two events we'll focus on are mentioned above, MLK Walk and Antioch event.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 1st Quarter Upcoming Events
 - i. MLK Day – acknowledge day; meet downtown for walk
 - ii. Art Crawl – RV Porath will facilitate Main Street engagement / initial conversation. Reality is it's happened twice with hundreds volunteer hours. I Hayes asked who's is the art crawl? It is PAC hosted event. RV Porath, downtown event, thus Main St involvement. PAC and M St meet, PAC takes lead and MSt is partner. Dates – discussions led to first few weeks being logical. R Karazim, PLAT has people booking for art crawl specific activity now. Need date decision. Need to identify coordinator. Coordinator won't be paid. Leave at first or second weekend. Time discussion, past 5pm-10pm. RV Porath anticipates similar number performers / artists, so plenty to spread over two days. Raise question Friday night into Saturday. M Bermudez, Hispanic community upset conflict with Cinco de Mayo. May 8 would be better than fist weekend. J Wilson raised concern lengthening event while leadership / coordinator responsibility is in transition. Surveys looked for more high quality art. DA Lyons, artist information? JW, in received access to gmail account used, and in process of getting more from Mike McGuinness. Suggestion subcommittee be created. Set meeting time when all arts commissioners can attend. RV Porath will share map with I Hayes. J Wilson will send her grant materials. Mayor stated it was kind of divorced from PAC, and would like to bring back "in house", because it originated here. PAC will administrate grant funds. All materials will contain PAC credit.

- Discussion with Mayor requesting info on city's contribution to holiday event. Mayor warned against throwing a land mine into that. Maybe other communities should do more, but delicate situation. Commissioners discussed approaching from angle of team-building support to help keep ball moving forward. They are asking city for money, so let's *all* take a look at what this event consumes resource-wise, and where do they come from? Mayor's conversation with Main St re: parade, some burnout there too. Do a post-mortem recap, all sit down together, after Jan. 1. Not do things same way all the time, install fresh ideas. RV Porath, L Zabik will send out evaluation / survey, asking for everyone's feedback. M Bermudez added OLHSA also plays a part. Discussion re: board for Holiday Extravaganza that takes on fundraising. DA Lyons asked about how well it was promoted. Feedback was not well, beyond billboards and banners.
- iii. Strand – Music Festival and Gospel Explosion (July '19); Mayor suggested PAC generates a calendar, I Hayes confirmed one was being created, thus the inquiry now re: dates.
 - iv. Downtown – upcoming events – we help sponsor Phoenix Derby. PAC supports students decorating cars. Dream Cruise. First quarter? RV Porath, we're coordinating displays in case in City Hall, need list of what's featured monthly. Need a point person on PAC, and groups/schools in community can choose a month to create a display. RV Porath will generate description of what we're looking for, R Karazim offered to babysit installations. January is MLK, and Judge Waterman as part of Black History.
- M Bermudez, any discussion of ethnic festivals in downtown? Mayor, with festivals you need someone to take that on as promoter to take on liability and secure bonds. MB, who would you like us to speak to for Puerto Rico and Mexico festivals? Have made multiple attempts to get ball rolling. I Hayes will put on agenda for next meeting, so it can be addressed fully. R Karazim would like to be on ethnic festivals committee if one is formed.
- v. County Wide – 200th Anniversary of Oakland Cty. RV Porath, Pontiac people are on the committee, some different things to commemorate the anniversary.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Detroit Experience Factory will be visiting at Jan. 13th meeting, because they want to start doing tours about Pontiac in Pontiac. RVP believes they have grant funds go do so. Mayor met representative. Great promotional activity in Detroit, and she's interested in Pontiac. Requested guidance on how to do same in Pontiac. RV Porath, can target people that work in Pontiac, but never leave their building to take in Pontiac offerings, eg United Shore. M Bermudez, also good to offer to schools.

Mayor shared, Channel 7 had done a piece on decreased crime in and businesses returning to Pontiac. It will be posted on City's site.

M Stone shared Friday, March 27 at 10am, youth focused World Music concert at OU, Varnier Hall. J Wilson suggested share arts council bus grant info with schools.

M Bermudez – Puerto Rican Cultural Education Center(? hard to hear) celebration on or near July 25 every year. Also around September 16 for Mexican Festival.

PLAT, Dec. 12, thank you Pontiac film, Office; 12/15 *It's a Wonderful Life*.

PCAC, Karaoke with Clauses 12/14; *Synergy Redefined* 12/18-1/25 with closing reception; *Arab American Heritage* exhibit, date tbd; *POP (P's of Pontiac)* interested artists pick up a "P" from PCAC, turn in to art and return it. They will be exhibited prior to crawl and then "P"s will move to arts crawl during event.

Mayor said Alexandria Riley looking into Bloomberg *Asphalt Art* (?) grant

VIII. OPEN FLOOR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting, Jan. 13, 2020, 5:30

IX. ADJOURNMENT J Wilson motioned to adjourn, M Bermudez seconded.