

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL  
CITY OF AMARILLO

Minutes

On August 13, 2019, the Beautification and Public Arts Advisory Board met at 4:00 pm in City Hall at 601 S. Buchanan Street, Room 306 for a Regular Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	TOTAL ATTENDED	TOTAL MEETINGS
Jason Boyett	Y	19	19
Jacob Breeden	Y	18	19
Rhonda Dittfurth	Y	5	5
Beth Duke	Y	17	19
Sonja Gross	Y	15	19
Angela Knapp Eggers	Y	17	19
Eddy Sauer	Y	15	19
Kelley Sims	N	12	19
Andi Wardlaw	Y	17	19

Also in attendance were:

Sherman Bass           Amarillo Civic Center Complex General Manager  
Courtney White        Assistant City Attorney  
Michael Kashuba       Director of Parks and Recreation  
Karen Shipley           Amarillo Civic Center Complex Administrative Assistant

Item 1.           **Call to Order and Announcements.** Chair Jason Boyett called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Item 2.           **Discuss and Consider Minutes.** Chair Boyett asked if there were any changes to the minutes for the meeting 7/8/19. Councilmember Eddy Sauer motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Jacob Breeden seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3.           **Discuss and Consider Beautification Projects.** Chair Jason Boyett reminded the Board that we have gone back and forth trying to figure out what can be an actual project, whether it is a grant or a collaboration that we ask City Council to help us fund for the coming year. The project regarding trees ran into some hurdles. We have talked about the gateways and other ideas. Ms. Andy Wardlaw mentioned that in the winter we had Dr. Paul Matney give a presentation about a plaque in a park. She suggested we could landscape it and make it simple and prominent. A question from Chair Boyett was there was a discussion in the winter about the expense of a new monument. Beth Duke added that Center City gave a grant for a monument for three Polk Street schools and they ended up raising \$50,000. Mr. Breeden

mentioned that the City is providing a small amount of resources and other entities have contributed to make different projects possible. Maybe the neighborhood association (neighborhood plans) could help with updating that plaque area. He would like to stay with a grant program. Councilman Sauer said he has noticed that cities like Oklahoma City have gateways or markers into every neighborhood. He suggested that we put a gateway or marker in some of the neighborhoods like San Jacinto, Route 66, Eastridge, etc. Those neighborhoods could raise funds to create their neighborhood marking. Ideas were discussed about what could be done. Chair Boyett asked if we were comfortable with saying it is a Beautification Grant Project and to bring ideas and we could match those funds. Rhonda Dittfurth would like to see us provide some ideas and examples on how projects they might apply for. Chair Boyett asked how everyone feels about stipulating that the applicants need to be a neighborhood association, a group of home owners, or an individual? Angela Knapp Eggers suggested it needs to be more open. Chair Boyett said we need to define who can make this application. Mr. Bass asked if it is okay with the Board, he believes we have enough to go on and the budget request will be made tomorrow or Thursday. We will move forward with a request for a Beautification project that is grant based like our Mural Project and give staff a couple of months to do some research and come up with some ideas to present and the Board can fine tune those ideas. There was more discussion about potentially limiting individual property owners and giving staff time to research and draft a program. Ms. Duke motioned to direct staff to research the procedures and policies for a proposed Beautification Grant project. Sonja Gross seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4. **Update on Mural Grant Projects.** Mr. Bass proceeds to give a report on the Mural Grants. Four of the five murals are complete. The WT group has remained in contact with him and the project is going a little slower than they expected. Mr. Bass told them we would not award the reimbursement until they are complete, but he still needs the reimbursement backup completed by the deadline this week, so they are making sure that are going to meet that requirement. He will have it and review it and process it in a week or two when the mural is complete. The Officewise grant has been processed and they have received their reimbursement. The two at Snack Pak for Kids have been submitted to him and he is reviewing them. They look good. He sent a reminder today to the 34<sup>th</sup> & Western mural of the deadline this week.

Mr. Bass said for both the Beautification Project and the Mural Project we can reach out to homeowner's associations, neighborhood associations, neighborhood plans, merchant's associations, etc. and encourage them apply. Chair Boyett said that the Mural Project seemed to get off to a slow start but since we started meeting 18 months ago, looking back we can see what has been happening since; examples, the Airport Mural, Barrio Gateway, the Festival and several more. Some we have been involved with and others have been inspired by what we have begun. He is very encouraged now. Ms. Dittfurth and others agreed.

Item 5. **Presentation on Blank Spaces Murals.** This item was taken out of order. Chair Boyett turned the floor over to Mr. Breeden to update the Board on Blank Spaces. He stated that Blank Spaces completed both of their large murals at Snack Pack plus the mural at 34<sup>th</sup> and

Western. Blank Spaces is housed out of Caprock and is currently all female high school students. They are participating in Shawn Kennedy's prototype program through AISD. These students were paid approximately what they would have earned on a summer job. Because of what they have accomplished there are businesses putting out requests for small and large projects to be done. Councilman Dr. Eddy Sauer asked if the businesses were funding the projects. Mr. Breeden said these projects were funded through the grant program. These students will be doing Public Art as part of their school day during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> period. Chair Boyett added that we have been creating something that is sustainable that will outlast us. What we have at this point is some of the most experienced mural artists in the City are 17-year old students. Some of these kids are going to be here doing this for 10 to 20 years. Mr. Breeden mentioned that the WT group is doing an old west mural and they have already done a mural in Canyon. Ms. Angela Knapp Eggers asked if we have a plan to document all these projects. Chair Jason Boyett said they have been documenting it themselves. Mr. Breeden said he also takes pictures of the projects. Mr. Bass reminded the group that the Board discussed back in June doing a release after the project was over and we have also talked about the City creating a web site in which long term would be an arts and culture web site. Short term it would map the murals that we are supporting.

Item 6. **Presentation on Hoodoo Mural Festival.** This item was taken out of order. Chair Boyett turned the floor over to Ms. Duke. She wants everyone to know the Hoodoo Mural Festival is privately funded and it was brought to Center City Board by Andrew Hall and Katt Massey. Andrew was inspired by projects in Denver and Miami. He wanted to bring a mural festival to Amarillo. Center City has sent out the request for artists and have received several applicants. They are trying to raise money to do three to four walls this first year and hoping to grow it into an annual festival. The Hoodoo Festival will be on September 21. All the walls are downtown. A hoodoo is a rock formation formed by erosion. The Lighthouse is the most notable hoodoo in our area. The walls funding has been raised for include Andrew Hall's building at 411 S. Fillmore, Elayne Shults' wall on Polk where the old Tatum's nightclub was, and the third wall is on Club 212 at 6<sup>th</sup> and Harrison. The painting will begin 10 days ahead. There is an out of town artist that will be painting the night of the Festival.

Item 7. **Public Forum.** Mr. Bass said on September 4<sup>th</sup> there is going to be an exclusive media day for something that has been branded Conversation Civic Center, and this is also a future agenda item. He will give the Board an update at the September meeting, but hopefully we will have a bond election in May to do major updates to the Civic Center. Ms. Duke shared that on September 21<sup>th</sup> at 4:11 PM at 411 S. Fillmore the Hoodoo Festival begins. Mr. Bass said this is not on the agenda, so we can not discuss this, but by a show of hands who would want to help with the Parks master plan. Michael Kashuba said it would be a minimal time commitment meeting together a few times. They will be engaging the public, where a lot of the information will be coming from. Chair Boyett said that Kelley Sims is not here to defend himself, but he would love to have him on the Parks master plan meetings.

Item 8. **Consider Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date and Time.** Future agenda items to include:

- Conversation Civic Center
- Parks master plan representatives
- Update on the Community Market at the old Sante Fe Depot location

After discussion, it was determined to meet on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 for the next meeting date at 11:45 AM.

Item 9. **Adjourn.** Chair Boyett adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM.

ATTEST:



Sherman Bass, Secretary



Jason Boyett, Chair