

A meeting of the Cultural District Advisory Board (CDAB) was held on January 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall Executive Conference Room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Chairman Bonnie Hargrove, advisory board members Jacque Wedler, Carol Lauvray, and Megan Meyer. Mary Jane Martin was absent. Ginger Ware was a special guest.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d) as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hargrove called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Ms. Lauvray made a motion, second by Ms. Wedler, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2018 CDAB meeting. The motion to approve the minutes as submitted passed unanimously.

ARTWALK

Chairman Hargrove said she had received a phone call from **Irene Pinckney** who would like to have “an independent ArtWalk” that is not affiliated with First Friday. CDAB took over ArtWalk because when the Chamber of Commerce/Main Street Beaufort was no longer doing events, she said, the board wanted to ensure that ArtWalk still happened, but any person or group could produce the ArtWalk events.

CDAB agreed that ArtWalk would happen on 2 dates, Chairman Hargrove said, but Ms. Pinckney would like it to be moved from April 5 to April 26. She suggested that Ms. Pinckney get the galleries together to talk about it; Chairman Hargrove doesn't feel it's “fair” to change the date “just for one gallery.”

Chairman Hargrove described what is done during ArtWalk and the role CDAB plays in that. She said she believes that Main Street Beaufort used to put on ArtWalk. Ms. Wedler asked if the merchants association shouldn't make the decision about when ArtWalk is held. Ms. Meyer said the Downtown Beaufort Merchants Association puts on First Fridays. Chairman Hargrove explained the difference between ArtWalk, which is “specific to the arts,” and more “merchant-driven” events like the trick-or-treat event that Main Street Beaufort also used to produce.

Chairman Hargrove said ArtWalk is already “out there” as being scheduled for April 5, but that might not be an issue. She is fine with keeping that date or with changing it. There was a general discussion about changing the date of the event.

Ginger Ware described a “white linen” ArtWalk in New Orleans, saying, “Doing something like that would be really cool” and would “separate that event from First

Fridays.” There is a similar “to-do” in Charleston, she said, so they could consider that for next year’s ArtWalks. She said they need to determine “who owns” the event. Chairman Hargrove said she thinks **Linda Roper** and **Rhonda Carey** are in charge of the event, and CDAB offered to help, but that is “a great question for the city.” There have been different entities over time that put on ArtWalk, she said.

Chairman Hargrove said the benches will be unveiled May 10 at USCB, in conjunction with an outdoor screening of “Forrest Gump.”

Chairman Hargrove said she’s hearing that the board feels that she should talk to Ms. Roper and Ms. Carey to determine “who owns” ArtWalk and that entity should make the decision about the date. Ms. Meyer suggested a roundtable that should include those city representatives, Chairman Hargrove for CDAB, a representative of Downtown Beaufort Merchants Association, and a representative of the arts guild. Chairman Hargrove said she would let the board members know what she hears about this from Ms. Roper and Ms. Carey.

Ms. Meyer said they could also get the representatives together for long-term planning but keep the April 5 date. She suggested letting Ms. Pinckney know that there will “hopefully be a replica ship in port that will bring a lot of people downtown,” which might help “her like April 5 better.”

BENCH PROJECT

Ms. Meyer said she thinks the bench project is “a really cool example of what we can do” when “we work together.” She has heard that Habitat for Humanity is already making the benches, and she has “some detailed questions” for them. Chairman Hargrove said they are making the benches, but Ms. Meyer could call them with her questions.

Ms. Lauvray asked if the bench for which Mayor **Billy Keyserling** had made a donation for the Reconstruction Era offices is “going to be on that side of the street.” Chairman Hargrove said she thinks Ms. Ware “is going to help” Mayor Keyserling “with that.” Ms. Ware said Ms. Carey had told her the bench is going “in the front . . . of the Reconstruction” building. Ms. Lauvray said the shuttle pick-up is in front of The Arsenal, across the street from that building. Chairman Hargrove said, “We’ll work that out.” Ms. Lauvray said, “We’d love to have some Reconstruction on our side of the street, too,” if that is okay with Mayor Keyserling. There was a general discussion about where the bench could and should be placed.

Chairman Hargrove said she had heard that Ms. Carey had found a space for the bench. She suggested that Ms. Ware call Ms. Carey, because Ms. Carey had submitted photos of bench locations to **Lauren Kelly** in the city’s planning department for her approval.

There was more general discussion about the bench placement in relation to the shuttle

pick-up and the Reconstruction Era monument building. Ms. Meyer said she would take on answering this question about the approved locations, and she will send Ms. Carey's response and the answers she gets to her Habitat for Humanity questions to the CDAB members.

Ms. Meyer said her group wanted to know if they could "go see a prototype" of the bench. Chairman Hargrove said they could. Ms. Meyer said if she gets the okay from Habitat, she'd let CDAB members know, and they could also come to see the benches.

There was a general discussion about the USCB art students who will be painting one of the benches.

Ms. Wedler asked what Mayor Keyserling has "in mind to be on his bench." Ms. Ware said he "hasn't given a whole lot of direction," but "any type of logos, type, text or anything" has been "vetoed." There was a general discussion of the elements and embellishments that could be on the benches. Chairman Hargrove said the city would ensure that the benches meet any standards it has.

Beaufort Art Association is doing the work on another bench. Chairman Hargrove said, "The city is doing work on one on the waterfront," in collaboration with an artist from the Arts Council. There may be 15 different partnerships on the benches, she said.

There was a general discussion of the Beaufort Art Association and the Arts Council. Chairman Hargrove said Ms. Carey has reached out to the Arts Council president about attending CDAB meetings.

Ms. Lauvray discussed the sites that are part of the Reconstruction Era monument and suggested Ms. Ware read an article she had written about it.

INTRODUCTION OF STEVE ROSENBERG & OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING MUSIC EVENT COLLABORATION

Chairman Hargrove said **Steve Rosenberg** has agreed to help "create more musical cultural opportunities in the downtown area." He is a professor emeritus from the College of Charleston, she said, specializing in "early music." He has "put together lots of Piccolo Spoleto events" in Charleston, and "has offered to help do events like that here." In May, there will be free concerts at various churches. The first weekend of May, Mr. Rosenberg has offered to work with the city to offer "free music . . . in different spaces" during Taste of Beaufort, Chairman Hargrove said.

Chairman Hargrove said she'd be able to have a more definitive plan to share with CDAB at its next meeting. She said the community is very lucky to have Mr. Rosenberg here. Mayor Keyserling has been interested in doing Piccolo Spoleto events here. Charleston's mayor, a jazz musician, will perform at Saltus, she said, and money raised from that event "will go . . . for events" like the music at Taste of Beaufort.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Meyer said a service CDAB could do is provide information about events being planned by the city, members' organizations, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) to be put into a community calendar "for the year, which will help all of us coordinate, because there is nothing like that," and then other "news outlets can get information out." She asked if the board thinks that would fit into its mission. Ms. Ware said it fits with what she is planning for Eat Stay Play Beaufort (ESPB), so "that would be really cool to work with [you] to kind of pull that together."

Ms. Lauvray said the CVB has a calendar, "but it's not exhaustive." Ms. Meyer said organizations also "have to add your own things" to it. Ms. Lauvray said, for example, when the Beaufort History Museum was planning an event in the courtyard of The Arsenal, she "put a hold on the first 2 weekends of March," while waiting for the reenactors to let her know when they could come to Beaufort. Then a Beaufort History Museum board member told her that the first weekend wasn't good because 3,000 people would be at the Beaufort Charities oyster roast.

Chairman Hargrove said this is a very common problem because so much is going on all the time. Ms. Lauvray said that's true, and "there's nobody that knows what all is going on," so it's impossible to determine what the best day is to have an event. She feels that it would be a big help if CDAB could help with this calendar.

Ms. Meyer said it's also difficult to know "ways to combine or collaborate on things or have things at the same time that will help each" event "because you don't know the grand spectrum" of events and activities citywide.

Chairman Hargrove said there's no reason people wouldn't go to more than one event on a given day if they knew about them (i.e., the events on a certain day don't necessarily cancel one another out). Ms. Meyer said a calendar would be "a huge tourism" tool. Ms. Ware said it would also help local businesses, but "it's a pretty huge task." ESPB has 2 interns "scrapping around" for events, but it's "endless," and by being at the CDAB meeting, she's hearing about events that are "not on our radar."

Ms. Meyer said, "We've got signage, we've got a website, we've got a logo, we've got a project underway to give us some publicity," so she thinks CDAB needs to work on this "long-term activity that benefits the community" and the Cultural District.

Chairman Hargrove suggested that the board think about this and discuss CDAB's plans and goals for "our next year" at the next meeting. Ms. Meyer suggested that "this goes hand-in-hand with" the need to get representatives of various groups, the downtown merchants, Ms. Roper and Ms. Carey to determine "who owns events" like ArtWalk that are "community events that aren't obviously owned by an organization or a group." When "those kinds of things" are determined, she said, they could begin to work on

“the collective calendar and a way to access all the information and make it available.” Ms. Meyer feels this project would be “a great endeavor.”

Ms. Lauvray said last year, the museum planned its encampment 3 months in advance, and asked the CVB what was “on your calendar for the end of March” on the weekend the museum had chosen; they were told there were no conflicts. Then it turned out “there were four major events that day,” she said.

Ms. Lauvray asked if the calendar had to be limited to what’s happening in the Cultural District, because events in Port Royal, for example, could have an impact on events in the City of Beaufort. Chairman Hargrove said she doesn’t think so, as long as “we . . . make sure the Cultural District is represented.” Events anywhere in the area would “certainly have an impact on the restaurants downtown,” she said.

Ms. Meyer said they could also coordinate with the information on the boards on West Street Extension.

Ms. Ware said she would like the board members to email her information about any events they are having for ESPB to develop into articles.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chairman Hargrove adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:45 p.m.