

EDUCATION, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE

August 19, 2008

4:30 P.M.

Councilwoman Robinson, Chairman, called the meeting of the Education, Arts & Culture Committee to order with Councilmen Rico, Bennett, Berz, Benson, Page, Pierce, and Shockley present. Also present were Attorney Randall Nelson and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council.

Others present included Missy Crutchfield, Sandy Coulter, Laurie Shipley, Michele McKinney, Frank Hamilton, Chip O'Dell, Dan Johnson, Fireman Rozelle, Larry Zehnder, Beverly Johnson, Danny Thornton, Daisy Madison, and Richard Beeland.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Chairman Robinson turned the meeting over to Missy Crutchfield.

Ms. Crutchfield stated that they wished to give an update and to brag about their department. She first acknowledged that this was Laurie Shipley's last meeting—that she was going to accept another position, noting that it was hard to lose good people. She also noted that Michele McKinney was present to talk about the Pottery Center in Lookout Valley. The first topic of discussion would be the Tivoli Restroom Renovation. She turned the meeting over to Sandy Coulter.

Ms. Coulter stated that she would address the lighting—that there are only lights on one side, and they are on a dimmer switch—this has been changed from a dimmer switch. In the Ladies Restroom, seven additional water closets will be added and one more sink. She stated that they were modernizing, yet keeping the historical element. They will be replacing the floor with 14" squares, and there will be new fixtures. The fixtures will be upgraded in the Gentlemen's Restroom and in the main floor restroom, for those not able to access the other restrooms, there will be new tile. On the third floor, the Ladies and Gentlemen Restrooms will be combined with 13 additional spaces. The fixtures on the third floor were not commercial grade and the tanks could not fill up—there will be new commercial facilities.

Ms. Crutchfield reiterated that this would all be done with historical integrity.

The next topic of discussion was the Tivoli Seat Plaque Campaign. Over 250 plaques have been ordered and Ms. Crutchfield noted that Laurie Shipley had worked diligently on this.

Ms. Shipley stated that this had been a very positive campaign; that there was to have been a drop date, but they decided they might as well keep selling the plaques—they cost \$100.00 each.

Ms. Crutchfield mentioned a cut-off date, stating that they also kept in place the existing plaques.

Councilman Pierce asked the cost of installation of the plaques? Ms. Shipley responded that they were doing this in-house. Ms. Crutchfield added that they were break even and that this had been a successful campaign. Councilman Pierce questioned if the Council gave them permission to sell these plaques?

Attorney Nelson responded that he thought the Department just went ahead and did it.

Councilman Pierce stated the reason he was questioning this was because of our previous meeting about fundraising.

Ms. Crutchfield stated that there was a precedent with previous plaques.

Councilman Pierce stated he knew that they had done this but questioned if it were right.

Ms. Crutchfield added that they broke even with the cost of the chairs, prompting Councilman Benson to question if they would not make any money on this—if they were making no money, he saw no sense in supporting this. It was explained that they would be making a profit.

The next topic was a State Grant that would support EAC's Connecting the Dots Virtual Summer School. Ms. Crutchfield explained that this Grant came through Andy Berke—it involves kids in the Brainerd and Southside Centers who are falling through the cracks; letters of appreciation have been received from the kids, and Senator Berke is very impressed with this, as he is very passionate about education.

The next issue discussed was our partnership with the Lookouts. Ms. Crutchfield stated that kids think about their heroes and what they want to be; that Frank Burke had been wonderful to partner with, and this is a win-win situation for kids. This is the second year for this program. Ms. Crutchfield stated that this wrapped up their visual presentation.

The next topic was the 4th Summit in 2009. This is an opportunity to build a relationship with Public Art, working with Rachel Hildebrandt. Ms. Crutchfield stated that they were proud to be part of this, whether everyone liked the art pieces or not.

Ms. Crutchfield went on to say that thanks to Councilwoman Robinson, that the Passage would be enhanced with a “Light Hour”; that she had visited the Natural Bridge in Virginia; that she was proud to be a part of this, thanks to Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson continued at this point, stating that the Passage was in need of repair; that our Public Art Committee, Missy Crutchfield and Larry Zehnder had worked together to enhance the Passage, and it will be more intriguing at night time—there will be enhanced light to showcase the medallions. This will create a sunset at each evening program when people go to the Passage, and the water levels will be lowered with a recording that the Indians have written, telling their story. She stated that this was in the beginning stages of being developed; that we are consulting with Native Americans and the Architect who created the Passage. She went on to say that we would teach young people about the Passage, and the historical record will tell people about the history and educate them. She stated that we did not want to change the Passage but to enhance it with moonlight. The springboard for this program is the Natural Bridge in Virginia that Missy had visited.

Ms. Crutchfield added that this would bring in another audience, and she was honored to be part of this.

Before the meeting adjourned, Michele McKinney with the Pottery Center spoke. She stated that the program had been in existence but had gotten lost; that she had been working with Missy and working with the schools to have field trips. She brought some examples of their work to show to the Council—beautiful pieces of pottery.

Councilwoman Bennett noted that the Mayor’s Office would soon be showcasing pottery.

Ms. Crutchfield stated that when visitors come from out of town, we would like to be able to give them something unique, and this pottery would be a wonderful opportunity for gifts that are affordable and unique, with Councilwoman Robinson adding that this is another gift of Art. Ms. McKinney noted that this area is known for the art of pottery. Ms. Crutchfield asked that the Council give them some ideas on what they would like for them to create.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.