



MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF
SAN DIMAS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2010, 4:00 P. M.
TEMPORARY CITY HALL
186 VILLAGE COURT

PRESENT:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Councilmember Emmett Badar
Councilmember Denis Bertone
Councilmember John Ebiner
City Manager Blaine Michaelis
City Clerk Ina Rios
Assistant City Manager Ken Duran
Director of Parks and Recreation Theresa Bruns
Facilities Manager Karon DeLeon

Saffron - Arlene Anaya, General Manager
Historical Society - Jim Rowe, President
Festival of Arts - Mary Ann Kistler, President

Also in attendance: Marilyn Angelo, David Bratt, Connie Brown, Bill Churchill, John Davis, Susan Davis, Bill Emerson, Joe Fransen, Margie Green, Alline Kranzer, Don Rowson, Alta Skinner, Judi Smith

ABSENT:

Councilmember Jeff Templeman

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

(For anyone wishing to address the City Council on an item on this agenda. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the legislative body is prohibited from taking or engaging in discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. Speakers are limited to three minutes or as may be determined by the Chair.)

- a. Members of the Audience

There were no speakers.

3. STUDY SESSION WITH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SAFFRON RESTAURANT, AND THE SAN DIMAS FESTIVAL OF ARTS.

- a. Each organization provide an update on activities and future events. Explore the development of a master calendar as we talked about before.

City Manager Michaelis welcomed everyone and said the purpose of the meeting is to coordinate activities in the Walker House between the different organizations. He mentioned that the City Council recently approved a 12-month extension to the Lease Agreement for Saffron and Saffron was recently recognized as Business-of-the-Year by the Chamber of Commerce. He said this is a roundtable update on the various organizations and activities and he called on Arlene Anaya, General Manager of Saffron.

Arlene Anaya, General Manager, Saffron, said she is working on securing the liquor license. She reported that summer months are slow, but consistent, new groups are coming in from surrounding communities, and she is getting calls for the holidays. She indicated that the new menu was launched and the website updated, including Facebook and Twitter.

In response to Mr. Michaelis, Ms. Anaya replied that the Restaurant is closed for Sunday dinner, but open for brunch, and depending on business, dinner might reopen in September. She added that the Murder Mystery Dinner is Saturday, July 24 and the next one is scheduled for September 25. She mentioned that the only issue is lack of shade in the courtyard.

Councilmember Bertone stated that staff is working to resolve this issue.

Jim Rowe, Historical Society, said Bill Emerson will provide an update on the museum and Susan Davis will talk about the Archives and tours:

Bill Emerson reported that the museum is coming along fine. He said they are experimenting with different hours and on each table in the restaurant they have placed a placard inviting visitors to the museum after lunch. He said a section of railing was installed around the veranda and Mr. Templeman is building a table to hold additional pictures of the family. He added that the collection from the Westerners is now catalogued and filed in the custom bookcases.

Susan Davis said a lot of good people from the community have expressed interest in volunteering and the second volunteer orientation will be conducted on Saturday, July 31. She said tours are being conducted consistently and Fred Brunner is coming to lunch on Tuesday, at the Walker House and has items he wishes to donate to the Historical Society. She replied to Alta Skinner that archives are open Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Margie Green, FWA, highlighted the events held and said upcoming events include a glass art exhibition in August; landscape and wildlife by Mark Jung in September; local student artists and annual Wild Life show in October; wood sculpture and carvings in November; free form gold and silver jewelry as well as pottery in December. She said in 2011, Valentines and Saint Patrick's Day will be celebrated with romantic photographs from Ireland; local student art and the National Western Art Exhibition and Sale in April; and Congressman David Dreier's Student Art Show in May.

In response to Mr. Michaelis, Ms. Kistler replied that Julie Salazar and Jeannette Page were selected to chair the Fall show, and they are in the planning stages, with Julie coordinating food arrangements with Saffron.

Mr. Duran invited Ms. Kistler and Ms. Salazar to set up a meeting with Arlene Anaya and Karon DeLeon to coordinate the logistics.

Alta Skinner mentioned that the Festival is looking to add Charter Oak High School and Girls Continuing School to the High School Student Art display in October. She added that ceramics from the Fairplex program and Citrus College will be incorporated into the April 2011 show.

In response to Mr. Duran, Ms. Kistler replied that the annual art collection is taken down for the 2nd Story Gallery Artists to show their exhibitions.

Julie Salazar inquired if the collection could be on display in the gallery rooms for the entire month since Judi is now available in the office and the Historical Society is open on Tuesday and Thursday. She mentioned she spoke with Arlene Anaya who does not oppose hanging art in the restaurant.

Mayor Morris said Karon DeLeon is the contact person in the coordination of space used, including the space Saffron occupies.

In response to Mr. Michaelis, Judi Smith replied she has moved into the Walker House and the office at the Martin House is no longer operational, other than as storage since space is limited in the Walker House. She said her hours of operation at the Walker House are from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. which will increase before and after each show, and she works from home on Monday.

Mr. Michaelis offered the continued use of the Martin House for storage. He said a Master Calendar will be utilized by Saffron to post all events and hours of operation and the City will provide updates on the City's webpage.

- b. Review of any operational issues that need resolve. Update user group contact changes; confirm single point of contact for each group or at least a designated contact for a special event.

Mr. Michaelis asked if anyone experienced any problems in the use of the building.

Don Rowson said the elevator overheated. Facilities Manager DeLeon said adjustments were made and the State Inspector cleared the use. She said the elevator self-adjusts to the use.

Facilities Manager DeLeon said the bathroom door and lighting were fixed.

Alta Skinner expressed concern that the carpet is getting ruined from the afternoon sun streaming through the window in the top landing. Mayor Morris suggested mounting shades that roll up, leaving open a section on top for light.

Councilmember Badar reported that lamps on San Dimas Avenue are in need of cleaning.

Julie Salazar reported that the northern entrance steps are in need of cleaning.

Alline Kranzer said the veranda is also in need of a good cleaning.

In response to Mayor Morris, Manager DeLeon said thresholds are in the process of being sanded and re-stained.

Don Rowson reported that sliders on chairs make it difficult to move chairs over the carpet in the dining room.

Marilyn Angelo asked if the exterior door step could be marked to assist the elderly. Director Bruns suggested the step be striped for visibility.

Facilities Manager DeLeon encouraged emails or calls notifying her of any maintenance issues.

- c. Discussion and resolve of some lingering relationship issues, expectations, and perceptions that are limiting our collective effectiveness in working with each other to carry out the vision of the Walker House.

City Manager Michaelis said a gentleman was commissioned to paint a representation of several communities and would appreciate historic photos of all communities. Mr. Michaelis asked if the Historical Society could help in any way and he provided contact information to Susan Davis.

In response to Mr. Michaelis, Ms. DeLeon provided names of persons from each organization who have a full set of keys with alarm access codes or internal keys to the museum spaces only.

Mr. Michaelis said the Festival of Arts submitted a proposal to hang more art in different portions of the building. He clarified staff's understanding of the use of the Walker House, which is primarily an historic building and the décor reflects the intent of an historic building with furniture, hangings of black and white historical photographs, and the designation of rooms. He said the purpose is not necessarily intended to be an art gallery, restaurant, or museum. He suggested convening a Subcommittee review in a collective consensus manner to explore potential locations for the collection and present to the City Council recommendations complementary or appropriate to the historic décor of the building.

Mr. Michaelis said in planning of the city hall and community building renovation, the architect provided opportunities for the art pieces. Mr. Michaelis reviewed the floor plan for each building and described a breezeway connecting the west wing to the original building that is appropriate for art. He said the Subcommittee can consider this opportunity.

Alta Skinner suggested the art be displayed on a rotation basis between city hall and the Walker House.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, Mr. Michaelis suggested that up to four individuals from each group can serve on the Subcommittee. He added that due to the décor reflected in the building, there may be limited opportunities to hang art in the Walker House.

Councilmember Badar expressed concern about the safety of the art and the security measures. Julie Salazar stated that artists are less concerned about security, than their art being displayed.

In response to Councilmember Badar, Mr. Duran replied that the fine art is covered under the City's property insurance.

Mayor Morris said it would be the City Council's decision whether or not to change the focus of the building and the interior decorator's recommendation.

Bill Churchill offered that the Walker House is a piece of San Dimas history and the Festival is a part of San Dimas' history, making its art collected over the past 35 years historical relative to San Dimas, and therefore, appropriate to hang in the Walker House.

Susan Davis stated that the decorator was given direction by city staff to display a total history of San Dimas development and she selected those types of photographs, which have been popular with the groups that come through.

In response to Mayor Morris, Julie Salazar stated that space is conducive for both photographs and fine art, and there is adequate space in the historical wing to double-hang triple the amount of photographs. She suggested that the restaurant walls could also be utilized to hang fine art. Mayor Morris replied that Saffron walls are controlled by the City and the historical photographs on the walls of the building are the property of the City.

Julie Salazar stated that originally the Festival had three choices: 1) Build a museum in the Civic Center; 2) Construct a building at Horsethief Canyon Park; 3) Utilize the Engineering Building. She stated that the decision was made not to house the collection at any of the three sites. When the Walker House became available, the family disclosed they would like to see their home display their family history and the Festival's art collection. Mayor Morris replied that the Walker House is a public building and the City Council has the authority to make any change.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebner stated that originally, numerous ideas were presented to the City Council and ultimately, the City Council hired an architect to conduct a study for the restoration of the historic building, which resulted in the present décor.

Bill Emerson said the City purchased a collection of art from the Festival and asked if the City owned the fine art. Mayor Morris replied that the City and the Festival have an inventory list of the artwork purchased by the City.

City Manager Michaelis said the Subcommittee will convene with representatives from each group and seek to establish consensus on the proposal, which will be brought before the City Council.

It was decided that up to four representatives from each group would serve on the Subcommittee. Arlene Anaya respectfully excused herself from serving on the Subcommittee. Mr. Michaelis will contact the representatives with the meeting schedule.

City Manager Michaelis summarized the discussion and said the Walker House is a tremendous resource and people are San Dimas' greatest resource. He stated that respect and compromise will enable a consensus to resolve the issues and he hopes to move forward in that direction.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morris adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,