

Minutes of the
TOURISM AND ARTS COMMISSION
June 26, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers

Members: Steven Sinkler, Libby Gast, Hannah Buschert and Drea Frost
Excused: Greg Allen
Staff: City Manager Bruce St. Denis, City Recorder Jennifer Barrett and IT Director Rusty Barrett
Other: City Attorney Ashley Driscoll

CALL TO ORDER

Sinkler called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Driscoll gave a quick overview of conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest.

(1) TAF Grant Award Recommendations

Sinkler said we'll go through the requests and give our recommendation based on the request, then will review the totals and at the end we'll talk about other potential funding for the city.

Asked for any conflicts, Sinkler replied I have a potential conflict. In the past Get Lit used the Wine Shack but it was only twice and as a backup locations and it not in the plan at this time. Buschert said husband is on Chamber Board as Vice President. There is no financial benefit but for transparency wanted to declare.

Committee members shared their numbers. J Barrett read the averages. The Commission discussed their numbers and thought process used. The Commission discussed the applications that were not fully funded.

Motion: Buschert moved to approve the averages as a recommendation to the Council; Gast seconded the motion.

Vote: Sinkler, Gast, Buschert and Frost voted AYE: the vote was 6:0 and the motion carried.

J Barrett gave overview of the process going to Council. Sinkler said I will be here on the 11th should the council have any questions. J Barrett gave overview of budget for TAF.

Sinkler said at the last meeting Cannon Beach Elementary School project funding was discussed and this is a good time to discuss. Buschert said it's consistently being brought up that TAC is giving funds to CBE, but we haven't discussed or voted on it. I would like the opportunity to discuss. Gast said I want to make sure I didn't miss anything, our last discussion in the spring meeting we were asked if we could earmark anything, but hadn't discussed a number. J Barrett noted St. Denis asked for \$100,000 when requested. Gast said would they have to apply like the grants? St. Denis replied we ran into this when putting in power at the bandstand and the city is not a 501(c)3 so city ended up funding it because we couldn't apply. It would be a similar situation if the City Council does decide to pay for debt service and a lot is based on past boards which have expressed a great deal for the project. There has been question in the past with people applying for funds if project was completed would the CBE enhance their project and there was a high percentage saying yes. Because we can't apply, and this is something that would be for debt service the next allocation that would be made to TAC would be less the \$100,000. Part of the consideration was that we are getting less applications than in the past and there is a surplus of funds. The concept discussed with the Commission and Council is that the new center will be substantially tourism related and there is

all kinds of things that could happen that are promotional and along the lines of what this board supplies money for so it would be an ongoing allocation that would be taken out before funds comes to this group since we can't apply. Gast asked I did not sit on the latest school meeting, I know there was an adhoc committee, was it decided that we are going to have a physical manager to run the facility, St. Denis replied no it was not decided. They've only had a couple of meetings and are meeting on Tuesday. They are early in their discussion. There is a discussion on whether is should be city run or under 501(c)3, but either way, they had said a manager is needed, but it hasn't been resolved. Sinkler said my thought is that the city is going to take an amount that was going to be earmarked for the committee that is in their purview, it would be appropriate for you or Council to come to a meeting and say there's what our plan is, we are going to take \$100,000 per year for debt services so the committee can all hear and have a good understanding of what the city's plan is for the money, how you are going to use it, a discussion ensued. St. Denis said there has been a general discussion at the council level and steps to be taken and we are still looking at the financing and once it all comes together that's when council would make a decision and would probably want to have a discussion with the board, right now conceptual. Driscoll added this isn't unprecedented. Back in 2019 the wanted to add electricity to the bandstand and in that situation we brought to Council and discussed ways to fund it. Second, during pandemic Council passed ordinance to fund the covid assistant plan and council made a decision regarding TAF funds. Third, when looking at guidance approved by TAC and Council the use of the funding included Advertising or marketing of tourism related facilities, events, and projects (as defined in ORS 320.350) included as part of the TAF funding request shall be for facilities, events, and projects located within the City limits of Cannon Beach. The tourist facility is already in the list as well the center it is also promoting the tourism and arts. To answer the question can the commission do this, they can with some revisions but it's not insurmountable. The council can amend the ordinance to direct funds elsewhere if they want to do that. Gast said I thought it was a vote to Council, Driscoll replied you can do that. You can recommend a portion go towards the facility. St. Denis noted back when Jim was on the committee that was something that was discussed to fund. Driscoll added you can make are recommendation to Council or Council can say this is in the best interest. Sinkler asked does the committee want to make a recommendation to the Council for the CBE? Buschert replied no. Gast said I think it would be a bullseye dart and think it has to come from them. Frost said I agree with Gast, without enough info in front of me I don't know. Sinkler said I think we are all on the same page and think it would be good to have St. Denis sit down and give an overview and Commission could vote on it. The council could also use a different process but would like. St. Denis said it would come off the top before the funds come to you to use for debt service. Sinkler asked does anyone feel they need more info, it would be for debt service. Gast replied if we did this and we had more applicants, could we fund them, Driscoll confirmed we can use the funds in reserve. St. Denis noted the amount received does tend to increase year by year. Gast said that was my only concern was to make sure we can tap into the reserves. Sinkler replied we were pretty close for a couple of years which was when the decision was made to create a reserve.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Discussed upcoming meeting on 8/21 at 1pm for final evaluations. J Barrett will invite applications to attend if they want, not mandatory.

Discussed the current vacancies. J Barrett noted two are posted and will work with Council on the 3rd position.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sinkler adjourned the meeting at 1:47 pm

Jennifer Barrett, City Recorder