



ATHENS
**Cultural
Affairs**
COMMISSION

Minutes for ACAC Commissioners Meeting

DATE: March 14, 2022

PRESENT:

Executive:

Chair: Andrew Salinas

Vice Chair: Madeline Blankenship

Treasurer: Darcie St. Onge

Secretary: Donna Brumby

Members-at-Large: Beatrice Brown; Montu Miller; Esra Santesso

Ex-officio: Serena Scibelli

Advisors: Didi Dunphy; Marilyn Wolf-Ragatz

Guests: Diana Jackson; Ellie Swensson

Staff: Tatiana Veneruso

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Linda Ford; Helen Kuykendall; Victoria Prevatt

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Salinas.

The minutes of the previous meeting (February 21, 2021) were corrected to include one member's name and then were approved unanimously (motion by Beatrice Brown / second by Esra Santesso).

Chair's Report: Andrew Salinas

- May 14, 2022 is the date scheduled for an appointed board member training session for ACAC, to be facilitated by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The day-long event will be held at the Lyndon House. The Strategy Team will meet prior to the April ACAC monthly meeting to set the agenda for the training session.
- The bike rack action team (Mickey Boyd and Serena Scibelli) will work with local input to establish a list of priority locations.
- ACAC has been notified by A-CCUG that Arts and Community Awards are currently on hold for a review of the award processes by the A-CC Attorney's office.

Financial Report

- Andrew Salinas and Darcie St. Onge will meet soon to identify SPLOST projects that may benefit from additional funding from the ACAC capital budget to supplement the regular SPLOST 1% amounts.

Project Reports

Tatiana Veneruso presented the following updates:

- Clayton Street
 - Fabrication is still pending, with installation expected in May 2022.
- Poet Laureate
 - The A-CC Library will host a Poet Laureate event in April, which is National Poetry Month. Tatiana Veruso is contacting downtown businesses to establish locations for displaying poetry by various local poets during April.
- Greenway II
 - The Mayor and Commission approved the site and type and Tatiana is composing a draft call for artists and projects. Since the location includes a bridge, plans for engineering review and associated costs must be included. Funding for the engineering review needs to be added to the amount named in the call for art.
- Firefly Trail II
 - At the user group meeting in February, the team discussed types of projects and budgets to be considered. Approximately \$113,000 should be available; A-CC suggests using this amount on Phase II. Phase III is due to be funded by T-SPLOST.
- Costa Building
 - The Mayor and Commission will vote in June on the use for this building.
- Classic Center Arena
 - The user group for this project met on February 16 to discuss project types and locations. ACAC Task Force members will now discuss how the funding might be divided between multiple installations for this project.
- Affordable Housing
 - Tatiana Veneruso is scheduling public engagement events in April and May, dates and times TBA.
- Music Walk of Fame
 - The next round of inductees has been selected and they are being notified by the Mayor. Inductees will be announced soon, probably later this month (March), although Andrew Salinas suggested the possibility of waiting until AthFest to make the announcement.
- Misc. Potential Small Projects
 - Ecostations
 - Urban Loos
 - Utility Boxes: Tatiana Veneruso will start checking in to how to secure approval for decorating utility boxes. Donna Brumby suggested these structures might be an opportunity to feature literary and/or lyrical contributions by local writers.

- Tatiana Veneruso will check on whether small projects like these may be funded from the ACAC capital budget.

Other Business

- The group discussed the differences between issuing RFQs (Requests for Qualifications) rather than RFPs (Requests for Proposals) when publishing calls for ACAC-funded projects. The ACAC Master Plan does suggest moving towards the RFQ model, where finalists would receive minimal funding to help off-set the costs of plans submitted. Andrew Salinas suggested trying an RFQ for the Greenway II bridge project to see how well the option works before committing to the RFQ model for all future projects.
- The group discussed the possibility of setting aside “contingency” funding for projects to try to make up for inflationary increases in the costs of supplies. The conclusion is that ACAC is not allowed to increase awards to artists after their contracts have been signed.
- Andrew Salinas asked that a call be prepared to seek a new member for the current ACAC board vacancy. The goal should be to have the new member in place in time to attend the May 14 board member training session.

Outreach Team Report:

Madeline Blankenship will make a project report to the entire group at the April meeting.

Strategy Team Report:

No report submitted.

Upcoming Events:

Various local opportunities were reported by attendees.

NEXT MEETING: April 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm
(Online meeting is planned at this time.)

(DRAFT Minutes submitted by Donna Brumby.)