

MEETING MINUTES

Governing Body: Arts Advisory Board
Date of Meeting: Saturday, September 30
Time of Meeting: 10:00 am
Place of Meeting: Airport Conference Room



Call Meeting to Order — Meeting called to order at 10:00 am (Blakely)

Roll Call — Present: Linda R. Blakely, David Byrd, Pam Grundstad, Chris Sutton and guest Mike Myers.

Approval of Agenda — The Board approved the meeting agenda (motion Grundstad; second Sutton. Vote: Unanimous)

Approval of Minutes — The Board tabled the approval of the August 24 minutes for the next meeting.

Project: Community Christmas Celebration

Pam Grundstad reported that the choir was doing very well. Discussion included if there was a need for supporting vocals on the track. Grundstad motioned to approve the expense of purchasing accompaniment only music. Sutton Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Decision to add the second show was discussed and times suggested were:

4:30 pm or 5:00 pm start for Christmas Show (VIP only)

Possible 5:00 pm – Santa Meet N Greet

6:00 pm – Parade

Immediately following Parade – Tree Lighting Ceremony

7:00 pm -7:15 pm – Christmas Show (second)

AgCertain has offered a sponsorship Santa. Councilman Moorman suggested the money go through the CVB so it can be used immediately. Blakely stated that if it goes through the arts it will not be available until FY2025. Blakely suggested a meeting with Ondrea Elmquist to see what the best options are to use the sponsorship. Blakely agreed to set up the meeting as soon as possible with Ondrea and Grundstad.

Byrd informed the Board that the \$5,000 budget amendment had been approved.

Blakely reviewed the rental costs of risers, Pipe and Drape and staging. Grundstad offered to reach out to the schools. Other details of the Christmas Celebration were discussed, including an update on the expenses to date.

Lighted Parade: Blakely read the September 20, 2023 email by Ms. Blocker regarding her unexpected exit from the planning of the Lighted Parade. Blakely stated that the Mayor had been informed of the situation.

Blakely reviewed the recommendations made by the Christmas Committee at their September 28 emergency meeting to the Arts Board:

- Councilman Moorman informed the Christmas Committee that due to Ms. Blocker's exit, the parade would fall on the Arts Boards shoulders and failure to produce a parade would have severe repercussions on the Arts Board despite the fact that the CVB had agreed to manage the parade from the July 2023 meeting with Bill Skare.
- To accept Councilman Moorman's suggestion to remove the Parade from under the Arts Board and give sole responsibility to him for 2023. He stated he thought he could get Ms. Blocker to help him, as long as the Arts Board was not involved.
- To accept Councilman Moorman's request to be the liaison between the Arts Board and the CVB, when necessary, because Ms. Blocker does not want to work with the Arts Board.
- To accept Councilman Moorman's request that all marketing for the Community Christmas Celebration continue to show the cooperation between the CVB and the City of Boone's Arts Board so the public perception is unity. This would be done by both organizations.
- Confirm that the Arts Board will still be handling the Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Christmas Show.

Sutton motioned to accept the recommendations from the Christmas Committee. Grundstad seconded the Motion. Vote: unanimous.

Sponsorships: Discussion included sending a letter requesting support for the Arts. Sutton agreed to draft up a sample letter to be sent. Byrd reminded the board that any funding received will not be available for FY 2024 until after July 1 so we could not use it for this year's event.

Decoration Committee: Blakely stated that she would reach out to the volunteer list to get a meeting scheduled to start decorating City Hall. Blakely suggested asking Marsha Moorman to Chair that committee. All were in favor.

Next Meeting — Due to the lateness of the hour, the Board approved a motion to table the Financial Overview, Boards and Committees, Grants and Events for consideration at the next meeting. (motion made by: Sutton; second Byrd. Vote unanimous).

Board Comments — Byrd commented that he had sat in on a rehearsal and felt that this year's Choir was outstanding.

Public Comments — Guest Mike Myers requested an update on the movie, *It All Happened One Christmas*. Blakely read a statement issued to the City that corrected Mr. Stines' false narrative and accusations that the production company were "scam artists".

Sutton commented that the Arts Board's role was to make recommendations to the city and that she had personally researched the legitimacy of the company with people who are in the business and knew them.

Grundstad explained that the Arts Board had brought on a consultant who has over 40 years in the video and film industry before approving a recommendation to the City to consider.

Byrd commented that everyone has a right to their opinion, but the manner in which the movie was discussed at the August 21, 2023 City Council meeting was unnecessary and it was unfortunate that the Arts Board didn't get the opportunity to complete their presentation before others interrupted with accusations that were unfounded, and proved to be untrue. Byrd then stated that the motion passed to issue the \$25,000 once the Production Company raises the funding, so there was no need for anyone to be concerned about the City being scammed.

Motion to adjourn — The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am (motion Sutton; second Grundstad. Vote unanimous).