



AUSTIN MUSIC COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting – Monday, April 1, 2013, 6:30 P.M.

Austin City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Board and Commissions Room 1101

Commissioners in attendance: Brad Spies, Joah Spearman, Rich Garza, Heather Wagner Reed, Eve McArthur, Joe Stallone

Staff in attendance: Don Pitts, Stephanie Bergara

A. CALL TO ORDER

Spies called the Commission meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 4, 2013 were approved on Spearman's motion, Stallone's second, and a unanimous 6-0 vote.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

1. Jennifer Houlihan – update on state legislation that AMP has been involved in, read in to record a note from AMP Board Member Terry Lickona, regarding incentives for small business venue owners, reduction in TABC taxes for venues that have live music on four or more nights a week.
2. Lee Duffy – Update on Merle Haggard's Birthday Party at Threadgill's.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Music Commission Annual Internal Report

- i. See Attached Document, Garza motions to approve, Wagner-Reed seconds, motion passes 6-0.

2. Musicians Working Group Update

- i. Update on Musicians working group, Phillip Gibbs – Main news is surveys are going really well.
- ii. Spies suggests that looking at the best way move forward by collaborating with city staff, music nonprofits.
- iii. Spearman suggests looking at upcoming events to work on the right time to release these results.
- iv. Spies commends Gibbs on the amount of information the musicians working group has been able to compile.
- v. Gibbs thanks the Commission for guidance and says that the raw data should be shared.
- vi. Garza asked for a preliminary report for the May Commission meeting.

3. Development in Downtown Area – Update and Discussion

- i. Spearman reads out recommendations from downtown commission. Working group was formed to recognize needs. Neighborhood associations should have standing to appeal OMV permits, notices of OMV's should be sent to homeowners, and condo renters, reduce decibel level to 70 dBA, Application fee raised to \$1500, music office to do sound test in advance of issuance of sound permit, support the



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music office initiative of enhancing musician welfare, every citation issued for violating the terms of the permit will add to the cost of the permit, measurement needs to pay attention to bass frequencies.

- ii. Spearman asks that the Music Commission asks the Downtown Commission to bring their recommendations to a meeting to discuss collaboration efforts.
- iii. Spearman suggests giving the Downtown Commission an update about the venue toolbox thinks that the Downtown Commission would benefit from knowing what steps are already in place.
- iv. Garza notes that the Downtown Commission could benefit from working on a parallel path with the Music Commission on this issue.
- v. Pitts shares and update on land shares per Michael Knox of the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services office.

4. Fair Trade Music – Update

- i. Per Pitts, we are finalizing our local agreement with the local chapter, after which time we will be rolling out input from music venues and musicians, likely June, July and August.
- ii. Spies asks if any of the Fair Trade Music initiatives correlate with the venue toolbox.
- iii. Wagner-Reed asks if this project will be completely separate of the Portland and Seattle Fair Trade Music Initiatives. Pitts Explains that this Austin will be a chapter of Fair Trade Music.
- iv. Spearman notes that its really important to remember that the net is bigger than just the venues and to remember to think about the promoters, who patrons are going to support and when.
- v. Spies asks Lauren Gould to come up and speak, Gould asks what the involvement of musicians will be in Fair Trade Music, Pitts says that there will be a significant amount of involvement from the musicians in Austin.
- vi. Gould states that there is a disconnect between the union and Austin Musicians, states that many musicians are not interested in being a part of a union, suggests that there are a few pieces of the Portland model can be improved.
- vii. Pitts explains that the Portland chapter will be the first to note that its model is outdated, and that is can be approved upon, notes that for the project to be successful, it will require the effort of musicians, venues and organizations together.
- viii. Spies asks what the benefit of Austin being a part of this particular venture.
- ix. Garza says to think about this project with the idea that it is open to be re-envisioned, and that there is so much that can be done with this project.



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- x. Wagner-Reed notes that artists of all types are part of a bigger picture, mentions that support for musicians are at the forefront of the Imagine Austin Plan as a whole.
- xi. Wagner notes that the model of being a chapter of a larger organization will give Austin the chance to help create what the organization will ultimately be.

5. Spring Festival Season Temporary Events – Recap

- i. Pitts states that everyone can attest that there were a lot of people in town for the music portion, recaps data from various special events departments. Notes that sound complaints were higher for residences than for establishments.
- ii. Pitts notes that there was a fatality, a pedestrian was hit by a taxi and died later.
- iii. Pitts notes that music is working with the fire department and other special events departments in an effort to find what number of visitors the City as a whole can host. Notes that as the Special Events ordinance comes together, it will shed some light on what the city is prepared to handle.
- iv. Spies asks if the process was streamlined at all by way of the forthcoming Special Events Ordinance.
- v. Pitts says that the process this year was streamlined and incorporated in the review process, as much as the current code would allow.

MEMBER UPDATES

- 1. Spearman recounts DBA vs DBC conversation, notes that the musicians toolbox will serve as a more holistic approach to the infrastructure here.
- 2. Spies encourages commission to urge the Music Division Staff and council to encourage the support of the musician toolbox
- 3. Spearman asks staff for some additional information on the Riverside development vision.

F. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- 1. Pitts notes that the good neighbor/bad actor program, venue assistance program and outreach plan are all due to council May 1.

ADJOURNMENT

- 1. Stallone notes hearing a lot of good things about Austin being a place where a lot of good music is made, wanted to raise a flag about raising awareness on that.
- 2. MacArthur Motions to adjourn, Spearman seconds, motion passes 6-0.