



**AUSTIN MUSIC COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, June 3, 2013, 6:30 P.M.**  
Austin City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701  
Board and Commission Rm. 1101

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

Staff in attendance: Don Pitts, Ashley Buchanan

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Spies called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 6, 2013 and Special Called Meeting of May 14, 2013 were approved on Spearman's motion, Stallone's second, with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

**C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Presentation from Black Fret, Collin Kendrick
  - a. Kendrick discusses the model of Black Fret and their plan to build a new Austin arts institution capable of sustaining more than a million dollars a year in grants to local musicians. Discusses member experience and Black Fret's belief that they can obtain 1,333 individuals to donate \$1,500 annually to the organization. This equates to raising \$2,000,000 each year. Once a member donates money, members get to choose which bands the funds go to. This allows members to lobby for their own favorite bands and allows former grant recipients to nominate bands, building a sense of community.
  - b. Members of Black Fret share why they support the organization and the benefits of being a member.
  - c. Spearman asks what the parameters are. Kendrick states the parameters are defined on the website, [www.blackfret.org](http://www.blackfret.org).
2. Presentation from staff – Musicians Initiative Working Group recommendations
  - a. Pitts reviews the Music Division's response to each recommendation.
  - b. Recommendation 1: Establish a Musician's Parking System; staff will work with the appropriate City departments to study the feasibility of and possible funding sources for a parking program for the entertainment industry workforce, 6-12 month timeframe.
  - c. Recommendation 2: Establish a Protocol for Busking; staff plans to address this issue within six months and would like to incorporate best practices from other cities; staff has limited resources and cannot commit to producing a recurring

monthly event at this time, and this would involve closing streets and staff suggests creating desired Busking areas in the city first; staff has been in discussion with an organizer about creating a Busking festival in 2014.

- d. Recommendation 3: Artist Compensation; City Code prohibits listing any type of wages in Chapter 9-2 (Sound Ordinance); staff does not have authority to require a set wage; City's Law Department cannot allow the Fair Trade Music program without Council approval.
- e. Recommendation 4: Education, Awareness, Artist Resources; staff will begin to educate the music community on affordable housing options that are available for every citizen; and will increase outreach efforts about existing programs, resources and services.
- f. Recommendation 5: Musician Representation; staff will enhance musician outreach efforts about existing and future programs; in regards to the Commission, a Committee consists of members serving on the Commission; Commission bylaws do not allow the Commission to have committees; Commission would have to motion to approve a bylaw amendment; unless a membership requirement is required by City Charter, federal or state law, the board composition and membership qualifications contained in Chapter 2-1 of the Code are directory and not mandatory; Council attempts to appoint members that reflect the diversity of our City.
- g. Many of the recommendations are policy issues and staff is unable to discuss these with the Commission.
- h. Spies suggests creating a toolbox for musicians, similar to the Venue Toolbox that includes the Good Neighbor Program, Bad Actor Program, Venue Education Initiative, and Music Venue Assistance Loan Program.
- i. Spearman would like to review the recommendations and staff responses to the recommendations, and will email staff which ones he thinks are of top priority and are the most obtainable.
- j. Spies states the goal in August is to make firm recommendations on what they support and what they will bring to Council.
- k. Spies asks staff to send him and Mr. Spearman their responses to the recommendations.

#### **E. MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **F. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

#### **G. ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned at 8:20 p.m. on Spies' motion, McArthur's second, with a unanimous 4-0 vote. Spearman left the meeting prior to adjournment.