



AUSTIN MUSIC COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting – Monday, December 3, 2012, 6:00 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, Michael Feferman, Joe Stallone

Staff in attendance: Don Pitts, Stephanie Bergara

A. CALL TO ORDER

Spearman called the Commission meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 5, 2012 were approved on Garza's motion, Spearman's second, and a unanimous 6-0 vote.

Spies motions to move item #6 to the top of the agenda.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

D. NEW BUSINESS

**. Office of Special Events presentation by Department of Transportation
Assistant Director Gordon Derr**

1. Derr mentions staff's extensive work on how other major cities handle special events. Notes other cities similarities and differences with Austin
2. Derr states the ultimate outcome will be to go with a consolidated application process, various departments getting involved with their particular responsibility for the application
3. Ordinances being looked at are Special Events, Sound and Temporary Use, Purpose for consolidated application is to include all of the various departments and permits needed for large scale events
4. Major special events departments have been consolidated in to one office on the 10th floor of One Texas Center including, Transportation, Police, Fire, EMS, Music and Code Compliance.
5. Derr reports that the "Tier" system of events is the best way to approach events, as there is currently one format for processing all event applications currently. This system will utilize four tiers for events as small as one-day block parties or as large as weeklong national festivals.
6. Bottom line is that things are in process. Special Events would like to hold public meetings in the first quarter of 2013 to garner public comments and suggestions
7. Don Pitts adds that this endeavor is very ambitious and that things are moving as quickly as they can.
8. Spearman asks if the criteria for the tiers has been set and how that will be communicated. Derr responds saying one of the factors may be hotel room nights, Pitts includes that scalable permit processes in cities like Toronto were considered



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9. Spies asks if the streamlined application process will be in place by SXSW 2013, Derr responds that the 6-month time requirement has passed and that the focus this year will be on temporary use permits.
10. Garza notes that this is more of a 2014 plan for events of all scales
11. Spearman asks that the commission be informed of the dates for those tentative public meetings as soon as they are set in an effort to inform the music community.

. **Artspace Market Survey, presented by Cultural Arts Division, Janet Seibert**

1. See Attached PowerPoint

. **Discussion and Possible Action on Possible Meeting Schedule for 2013**

1. Spearman motions for ten regular meetings at the beginning of each month with two special called sessions in July and September, seconded by Stallone, vote passes unanimously, 6-0

. **Update on Downtown Music Affecting North Austin Neighborhoods, Mary Engel and Chad Hemmel**

1. See attached PowerPoint
2. Spies asks if any of the elements of the recommendations presented were considered in the Cedar Street Courtyard music venue assistance program pilot. Pitts replies yes, directional speakers have been used by Cedar Street and other applicants. Notes that Laguna Gloria is also now using directional speakers and that the sound improvement was noticeably better.
3. Spies asks if there are certain venues or nights that are particularly troublesome. Engel responds, saying there is one particular venue that is troublesome because it is on the upper deck music venue
4. Wagner-Reed asks how the venue itself will be affected with the two different systems, and if there is there any change possible with the redesign of Waller Creek. Hemmel responds that he has never seen any studies showing that people would enjoy music any less if the bass were turned down slightly. Continues to say that more outdoor venues are planned with the Waller Creek development and that it would be a great study to see how people within that neighborhood are affected.
5. Spies notes that this is something that has come up a few times to the commission, and that the commission has recommended to council a "venue toolbox". With the pilot program happened at Cedar Street Courtyard, they experienced a decrease in sound complaints by 80%. These recommendations would make that a full time program. The Commission is hopeful that council will pass these resolutions. Spies go on to say while he sympathizes with the plights of the North University Neighbors, the venues are so important to the people who work there and the musicians who play there, before drastic changes are made, he'd like to visit with the Neighbors again in early 2013 after the toolbox has had a chance to take effect.



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6. Linda MacKneeladge adds that the music does not just affect the neighborhoods to the north. She is a resident of the northwest Austin neighborhood, and says that the noise travels toward her neighborhood as well.

. Delayed Citizen Communication, Alex Vallejo, Austin Music Foundation/Update on Musicians Working Group

1. Vallejo provides update on Creative Media Center: Radio Austin Panel was a success, Event on December 9 is a Producer Panel, December 18 is How to Write a Business Plan, January 30 is a singer songwriter panel. AMF and Creative Media Center are committed to helping as many musicians as they can through 2008.
2. Garza's update on Musicians Working Group: ready to move forward, working to nominating and establish a core nucleus, anyone who wants to get involved can be involved. From a date standpoint, would like to see a preliminary report in the April meeting.
3. Stallone adds that this is not a closed group, but that there are a couple of individuals who have stepped up and wanted to be in leadership roles. Individual musicians named include: Phillip Gibbs, Greg Williams, Lauren Bruno
4. Spearman adds the value of Austin musicians is evident. There are musicians raising their hands to help, we need to give them the opportunity to deliver.
5. Garza asks staff to reach out to musicians and work out picking a date.

. Update on venue toolbox, good neighbor, bad actor, venue assistance program

1. Pitts states that this information is forthcoming.

. MEMBER UPDATES

1. Spearman notes continued work with the Arts and Music Working group, crystalizing the mission of the working group, action items, anticipate having this information in January, ready for reporting in February.
2. Spies congratulates East Austin Studio Tour on another fantastic year.

F. STAFF BRIEFINGS

1. Austin Music Memorial event went well, was well received by family members and friends
2. City of Austin Music Division and City of Austin Cultural Arts have coordinated with Gibson on a 100 guitar donation to MindPop, presentation is forthcoming

. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned on Spearman's motion, Garza's second, with a unanimous 6-0 vote.