



AUSTIN MUSIC COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting – Monday, November 7, 2011, 6:00 P.M.
Austin City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701
Boards and Commissions Room 1101

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

Staff in attendance: Don Pitts, Ashley Buchanan

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission meeting was unanimously called to order at 6:20 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the special called meeting of October 27, 2011 were approved on McArthur's motion, Reed's second, and a unanimous vote.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

1. Clifford Gillard, Victory Grill/Capitol View Arts – spoke about the success of Capitol View Arts' delegation of 25 individuals from the Austin urban music community sent to participate in the Cutting Edge Music Conference in New Orleans. The City of Austin Music Division offered travel support for these musicians and Gillard hopes to form future partnerships with the Music Division and multiple music organizations for road trip workshops and more travel experience for urban artists. Gillard plans to host quarterly trips for urban artists.
2. Tim Hamblin, Austin History Center – spoke about the success of the "5X5Y, 25 Years Celebrating SXSW" exhibit and mentioned the center's newest exhibit, "Sounding Together, 100 Years of the Austin Symphony". The exhibit is open to the public in the Grand Hall of the Austin History Center until February 12, 2012. The exhibit traces the history of the Austin Symphony being the longest running orchestra in Texas. Spearman suggested the Music Commission correspond with the Arts Commission to form future partnerships.
3. Chris Castle, Attorney – spoke about internet theft and cyber locking, which is where websites pay users to get and distribute illegal content including music, films, books and art. Castle mentioned the status of a bill being passed to stop this theft. It has been passed from the Senate with one hold from a Senator and has been introduced to the House.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Austin Music Commission meeting schedule for FY2012 – Spearman suggested the dates be set for the first Monday of each month except for January and September, which will be held the second Monday of the month due to holiday conflicts. Spearman described the framework for the schedule with specific topics designated for each meeting. McArthur motioned to approve the schedule with Spearman’s second, on unanimous vote.
2. Red River as a Live Music Heritage District – Spies briefed everyone on Red River and the benefits of designating the area as a Live Music Heritage District. Spies mentioned the goal is to promote the history of the area over decades, enhance the area and protect the district from future development of buildings. Spearman noted that other cities have had their history slip away and the City of Austin needs to take action now to show that this district is important and has a story to tell. He said by defining Red River as a district will inform developers and the community of this district so they can build around it and preserve the live music. Reed mentioned this will also market tourism for the area. Spearman said the next step is to draft a resolution pronouncing Red River as Live Music Heritage District, with increased hours of sound, incentives and parking recommendations. Spearman motioned to table the discussion for the next meeting but in the interim, the commissioners should correspond from the public, businesses and their council offices to gather feedback and suggestions. A citizen questioned about the boundaries of the district. Spies suggested the boundaries go from Eleventh Street down Red River to Fifth Street, and east up to Waller Creek. McArthur mentioned to take it all the way west to I35 access road. Reed suggested the commission invite business owners to come speak on ways to help them regarding boundaries, times and parking. Reed seconded Spearman’s motion to table the discussion to the next meeting. Spearman motioned Spies to take the lead and create a draft of a resolution to the next meeting and Spies seconded his motion, on a unanimous vote.
3. Downtown area noise/Cultural impact – Spies briefed about the issue of downtown noise regarding developers, buildings and residents. McArthur mentioned that developers construct buildings without correct insulation and the commission should suggest restrictions for developers. Spearman recommended the commission figure out a way to play to the strengths of developers and live music and create a cultural impact plan that speaks to the overall downtown area. Spies recommended the City Code include that any new development in the downtown area should consider decibel levels, sound levels and requirements in order to mitigate these issues, and also recommends there be changes in building codes to accommodate sound. Spearman motioned Spies to draft the proposed language for a resolution; Reed seconded the motion, on a unanimous vote. A unanimous vote was made to make this an item on the agenda for the December meeting and have a person from PDR attend to explain the process.

4. Sound Recommendations – Spies asked for an update on sound recommendations and Pitts said there will be an update at the December meeting. Spies recommended the commission organize outreach programs for citizens, promoters, outdoor music venues, and other music businesses in order to provide them all the information they need to know on sound and a Q&A session. Spearman recommended the Music Division spearhead the development and come up with a FAQ document of anticipated questions and set a date for the forum, Reed seconded the motion, on a unanimous vote.

E. MEMBER UPDATES

F. STAFF BRIEFINGS

G. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Next meeting: December 5, 2011.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on Spies' motion, Spearman's second, and a unanimous vote.