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CULTURE (CUL) COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES

JCPRD Administration Building Boardroom
7900 Renner Road, Shawnee Mission, KS 66219

January 7, 2019
5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Leslee Rivarola, and roll call was taken as follows:

Committee Members Present: Leslee Rivarola, Nancy Wallerstein

Committee Members Absent: Steven Baru

Guests Present: None

Staff Members Present:

Jill Geller, Executive Director

Susan Mong, Superintendent of Culture

Katie Baergen, CUL Sr. Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Assmann, ASV Sr. Administrative Assistant

David Grant, Human Resources Director

Richard Smalley, Marketing & Communications Mgr.

Rhonda Pollard, Superintendent of Recreation

DISCUSSION & ACTION

A. Agreement with Carlsen Center of Johnson County Community College – Susan Mong, Superintendent of Culture

Ms. Mong shared the proposed agreement to co-present, with the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College (JCCC), Indian Ink Theatre Company's production of "Mrs. Krishnan's Party." This will be a production with a focus on traditional Indian culture. The production is scheduled to run February 13-15, 2020, and would be held at the black box theater at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center (JCAHC). The goal is to cross pollinate audiences between JCCC and JCPRD, as well as to reflect Johnson County's evolving community.

Ms. Wallerstein expressed her concern this would be setting a precedence for future organizations. Ms. Wallerstein loves the ethnic background of the production but questioned why JCCC is requesting use of JCAHC when they have three stages at the Carlsen Center. She further questioned whether JCPRD would agree to co-produce productions for other entities that might approach them, noting that JCPRD has denied similar requests from other organizations. Barn Players have been turned away, and the high cost of facility rental has discouraged many renters. Ms. Wallerstein appreciates the idea of co-presenting, as long as it is an option open to all. She asked about the split of expenses and revenues to ensure that JCPRD covers its expenses. Ms.

Wallerstein also questioned why, per the agreement, ticket sales are capped at 100 per performance, as this limits the opportunity to generate revenues.

Ms. Rivarola had some of the same concerns. She noted the agreement is unclear regarding the exact expenses. She requested staff provide further detail regarding the budget and financial break down of the production. Ms. Rivarola also expressed her concern regarding ticket sales being handled by JCCC rather than JCPRD. She does not feel comfortable with patrons having to purchase their tickets through JCCC for a JCPRD/JCCC co-produced production held at a JCPRD-managed facility.

Ms. Mong indicated JCCC would like to reach a new audience and would also like to collaborate with other production companies in order to expand their reach throughout Johnson County. The main motivation for JCCC is the partnership. She noted JCCC will be assuming the majority of the expenses. Ms. Mong offered to compile more details regarding the show, tickets, and budget for the next committee meeting. She emphasized that any partnership, with any entity, would need to make sense with the theater schedule and other activities taking place at the JCAHC.

Ms. Geller asked Ms. Wallerstein if she would feel differently if JCCC were to rent the theater. Ms. Wallerstein indicated yes, she may feel differently in that scenario.

Ms. Wallerstein asked if there is a timeline/rush for this agreement. Ms. Mong responded no, but JCCC is working on agreements with Indian Ink Theatre Company, which are time sensitive.

The committee requested Ms. Mong provide the following information at next month's meeting: an outlined budget showing expenses/revenues for both entities; the retail cost for the rental of the black box theater at JCAHC including production rehearsal, setup, run of show, and cleanup; ticket sales breakdown of pricing categories and the expected number of discount tickets and complimentary tickets.

B. Update regarding the Theatre in the Park 50th Season celebration – Susan Mong, Superintendent of Culture

Ms. Mong presented updates on The Theatre in the Park's (TTIP) 50th Season Celebration. Indoor opening night of "Forever Plaid" in April will have an extended curtain announcement and a video presentation that will represent the history of TTIP. Outdoor opening night of "Annie" will be decorated with balloon arches and cookies given away. Giveaways at productions in addition to outdoor opening night will also occur for audience engagement. Staff welcome further ideas.

Ms. Rivarola asked who has been updating TTIP social media. Ms. Mong answered Tim Bair and Katie Baergen. Ms. Rivarola indicated they do a great job. Ms. Wallerstein noted Krista Eyer and Susan Mong also do a great job promoting the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center on social media.

Ms. Mong stated that the Sertoma Club will be recognized in regard to TTIP's 50th Season, as this group was the driving force behind the inception of the Theatre in the Park. Ms. Wallerstein suggested TTIP staff contact Laura McConwell, Reuben Sell's granddaughter, as Mr. Sell was an active Sertoman who spearheaded the Theatre inception. Ms. Mong informed of a collaboration with the Johnson County Museum presenting a Wizard of Oz exhibit during the same time the outdoor Theatre produces its performance of "The Wizard of Oz."

OTHER BUSINESS

The JoCo Magazine highlighted the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center in its most recent edition. The articles included the "Buy One Vet One" program coordinated by Devin Graham, as well as the Johnson County Museum programming around the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Rivarola adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm.

**BOARD OF PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS
CULTURE COMMITTEE**

[Signature on file]

LESLEE RIVAROLA, *Committee Chair*

PREPARED BY Katie Baergen, CUL Sr. Administrative Assistant

Approved January 16, 2019