

AD HOC THEATER COMMITTEE MEETING

May 12, 2020

The Ad Hoc Theater Committee of Chardon City Council met on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 4:45 PM via video conference.

Members of Ad Hoc Theater Committee present: Andrew Blackley, Deborah Chuha, Heather Means.

Others present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Adam Rogers, Angela Hansen, Brendan Sandham, Bret Boardwine, Chloe Porter, Fred Sternfeld, Greg Hillis, Hannah Maxwell, Bob Abelman, Chris Ciprioni, Kelly Tapaser.

City Manager Randy Sharpe called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

Election of Chairman

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to elect Heather Means as Chairman. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. Blackley moved and Ms. Means seconded to elect Deborah Chuha as Vice-Chairman. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the legal status of the theater guild, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki stated that the theater guild remains a separate entity from the City. He reported that the City sent notice to the theater guild of termination of the lease agreements for 101 and 106 Water Street, effective May 20, 2020. He added that the guild's property will remain theirs except for abandoned property left at 101 and 106 Water Street by May 20, 2020 which will become the property of the City.

Ms. Means asked how anyone who claims ownership of property at either location is to go about making a claim.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the best approach is to use common sense with items left at the property. Donations of equipment or machinery will be handled differently than small personal items. He added that if someone has personal property they believe is theirs and not the City's, they should approach the City to resolve the issue.

The Committee discussed how to proceed with calls from individuals who have items at the theater that are theirs.

Mr. Chojnacki suggested that a City contact be named and he and the contact will work through the specific request and try to apply some common sense while making sure to be stewards of the property abandoned by the guild while being careful not to overstep its bounds and expose the City to liability.

Mr. Blackley asked about instituting a formal process.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that he would apply some fact-finding and due diligence in each unique situation.

Ms. Means asked if the committee needs to be involved in the decisions.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that this would need to be done in a public meeting if the committee is involved.

Mr. Blackley inquired if Council action is necessary to disburse City property.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that there are statutes that govern the disbursement of property and depending on the property, Council action may not be necessary. On some of the items, disposal of some of the items can be considered within the city's regular course of operations.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the maintenance of the facility that are currently being done on the properties.

Regarding short and long term plans for the properties, Ms. Means stated that the Covid-19 virus prevents from anyone using the facility in the short term. She stated that the committee needs discuss how should the space at 106 be used. Research needs done on how the spaces should be used in the future.

Mr. Blackley suggested that a request for proposals be considered so that interested groups may provide ideas they have.

Ms. Sharpe asked if the committee wants staff to look into the City being the administrator of theater programs verses the City having a partnership with a group who runs it.

Mr. Rogers spoke about his interest in using the building for recreational as well as theater programs.

Ms. Means asked the committee about sharing the space at 106

Water Street to allow for a mix of City recreational programming as well as use by theater groups.

Mr. Blackley stated that it would be beneficial to have the City maintain tighter control over the facilities as well as using the theater for other purposes. He added that Council should consider adding capital improvements to the facilities.

Ms. Means stated that having different types of programs at the facilities is something she would like to see. She is in favor of inviting in those who have experience and interest.

Committee members conveyed that these facilities have to pay for themselves.

Ms. Means suggested the next step to invite people in to discuss their ideas and asked the recreation director to envision what he would like to do with programming in the space.

Mr. Sharpe stated that discussing ideas before the RFP is preferred so that the City knows what to put in the RFP.

The next meeting was set for June 16, 2020 at 5:30 PM and will include groups that wish to speak with the Committee.

The Committee members concurred that they would meet to walk through the building on Saturday, May 23, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Blackley seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM

Attest:

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council