

Freeport Arts & Cultural Center Steering Committee Minutes of 5/14/15 Meeting

Meeting was held at Freeport Town Hall Council Chambers

In attendance: Nancy Salmon, David Webster, Keith McBride, Ellen Ebert, Jane Bradley, Julie Freund, Elizabeth Guffey, Betsy Roper, Mandy McPherson, Ed Bradley, Kate Werner

Purpose of Meeting: Review notes of 4/28 public meeting; decide on next steps; prepare to report to FEDC

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Highlights/Impressions of April 28 Public Meeting
- Narrow focus
- Identify next steps

1) Members of the group introduced themselves and identified affiliations and interests related to Arts & Cultural Center.

2) Each attendee noted highlights for them from the April 28 public gathering at Freeport Community Center. First and foremost, the group agreed the meeting demonstrated there is enough general support for creating an arts & cultural center to continue the process. (Specific items are listed in below.)

3) We grouped the highlights into three basic areas of exploration: Information Hub, Organizational Structure & Planning, Venue Design.

Information Hub

- information vehicle/hub – eg kiosk, web
- awareness and public relations are important
- need demonstrable forward momentum in the process – disseminate info about the process to the public
- transform Freeport into an arts destination

Organizational Structure / Planning

- sound planning is critical – process, information, smart thinking
- need to organize the collaboration/coalition – create a structure for the effort/group/process
- management needs to be worked out
- need a sound financial plan
- who are the customers / end users?
- desire for space for arts education, participation in the arts and access to art
- location, location, location

Venue Design

- desire for flexible space
- there are some available venues
- need to evaluate space opportunities
- desire for a space that is inclusive – broad spectrum of arts, activities, users
- transportation and traffic are considerations for location
- who are the customers / end users?
- desire for space for arts education, participation in the arts and access to art
- location, location, location
- desire for dedicated arts space (physical space)
- concern that we not duplicate/compete with existing space/activity

4) Next Steps:

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- Working groups for three critical areas were formed:
Information Hub: Betsy Roper, Ellen Ebert, Elizabeth Guffey, David Webster
Organizational Structure: Keith McBride, Julie Freund, Jane Bradley, David Webster
Financing: Ed Bradley, Nancy Salmon, **two others selected to be invited**
- Working groups will meet this month and report to Steering Committee in June.
- Steering Committee will meet in June. Tentative agenda: develop a timeline for the process.
- Keith McBride and all Steering Committee members will keep their eyes and ears open for space opportunities and are preparing to evaluate those opportunities.
- Public information page will be created on FEDC website as a repository of information and plans developed by the Steering Committee and working groups.

5) Next Steering Committee meeting: Thursday June 4, 7-8:30pm. Location tbd. Steering Committee will meet in the evening on the first Thursday of every month.