

Nashville Music, Film, and Entertainment Commission

MINUTES

March 13, 2024 6:30 p.m.
Howard Office Building
Sonny West Conference Center
700 President Ronald Reagan Way
Nashville, TN 37210

Commissioners Present: Max Butler (Chair), Jeff Gordon (Vice Chair), Marshall McClarnon (Secretary), Meleisha Edwards, Peter Kurland, Stephanie Silverman, Michael Montgomery, Jeff Syracuse, Hazel Smith

Commissioners Absent: Dave Pomeroy, Shannon Sanders, Willie Sims

Staff: N/A

Guests: Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Jamari Brown (Metro), Bob Raines (TEC)

1. Call to Order:

Chair Max Butler called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. He welcomed all in attendance.

2. Public Comment:

Carlton Adkins is a teacher and is the executive director with a nonprofit that provides education to under represented populations in film and television - The Enlightenment Film Academy. He wanted to learn more about the Commission, and let us know about his work and programs.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the 2/16/24 meeting were submitted for approval.

There were two clarifications from Derrick Smith about item 9(A). These corrections were noted.

There was a typographical error on Jeff Gordon's name. Correction was noted.

Motion to approve as amended by Max Butler. Seconded by Stephanie Silverman. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Contacts and Disclosures:

Stephanie Silverman spoke to Willie Sims, but they did not discuss Commission business.

Max Butler spoke to Peter Kurland, but they did not discuss Commission business.

5. Guest Speaker: Bob Raines (TEC)

He provided a summary of the mission of the Tennessee Entertainment Commission (TEC). He also provided a summary of the programs available through and managed by TEC.

TEC just recently opened a music office. Bob Raines provided a summary of the office that is focused on business and community development, legislation, and incentive programs. There is a particular focus on rural communities. The office is launching music economic ecosystem feasibility studies.

TEC is working on a jobs portal for companies that need part time work to match with creatives who need flexible work.

Bob Raines answered various questions from the Commissioners.

What resources can be shared between the city Commission and the state Commission?

ReelScout. Memphis and Knoxville Film Commissions presently piggy back off the state system using a locally skinned landing page. There is a fee.

Locations database and the music directory are also potential options.

6. Reports from the Chair and Vice Chair:

Max Butler spoke with Jamari and they discussed the budget. The Mayor's Office budget will take shape next month and gets presented to City Council.

7. Committee Reports:

Budget Committee - Discussed draft Commission budget. There were recommendations from the committee.

First, to appoint Stephanie Silverman as a backup to Max Butler to present the Commission's budget proposal to Finance if the Chair is unavailable.

Motion made to adopt the committee's recommendation made by Michael Montgomery. Seconded by Jeff Syracuse. Motion passes unanimously.

Second recommendation from committee, prepare three draft budget proposals for the Commission, a lean budget, a medium budget, and a stretch budget to present to the full Commission for approval.

Motion from Stephanie Silverman - the Commission requests that the Budget Committee prepare three draft budget proposals minimum, target, and stretch to present to the full Commission at our next meeting. Seconded by Max Butler.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ad Hoc Job Description Committee - Committee announced that they had selected Jeff Gordon to serve as committee chair. The committee's current draft job description has a film focus presently.

Motion from Jeff Syracuse to defer Commission consideration of the draft job description until next meeting and empower the Ad Hoc Job Description Committee to continue their work and meet with HR with the goal of presenting a final draft to the full Commission by next meeting.

Seconded by Peter Kurland.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Unfinished Business:

A. Update on empty Commission seats - NECAT has a meeting next month. It is anticipated they are taking up the issue of their Ex Officio member.

The Mayor's Office is making a recommendation to the City Council to fill a vacancy. The Mayor's Office does not have control of the appointment, it is now under the control of the Council.

There is no update on the City Council's seat appointment.

The Recording Academy is not cooperating in filling the vacancy that they have appointing authority for.

B. Update on possible Amendment to Legislation -

There is not presently a mechanism where an entity outside the government has the power to make a Commission appointment but does not cooperate in making an appointment. What is the pathway? There is no guidance under the current ordinance. This will require a new ordinance from Council to address. A new ordinance should be forward thinking to provide guidance to this situation and similar future situations.

Code Cleanup. Looking for duplications between the Mayor's Office and the Commission's ordinance. One conflict presently is film permits. Jeff Syracuse recommends that Metro Legal and the Mayor's Office prepare a cleanup to present to the Commission because the conflict check could involve many things that are outside of the Commission.

Jeff Syracuse motion to appoint Max Butler to work with the Mayor's Office and Legal to work towards a code cleanup proposal for next Commission Meeting. Seconded by Peter Kurland. Motion passes unanimously.

C. Executive Committee - Max Butler recommending an Executive Committee to meet between the full Commission meetings. We are deferring this until another meeting. There was a recommendation that the Executive Committee include the Chairs of the three councils - Music City Music Council, Film and Television Advisory Council, and Diversity and Equity Council. Metro Legal recommends that any Committee have an odd number of members.

Hazel Smith is interested in the Chair of the Diversity and Equity Council.

Jeff Syracuse is interested in the Chair of the Music City Music Council.

Marshall McClarnon is interested in the Chair of the Film and Television Advisory Council.

Stephanie Silverman motions that Max Butler appoint interim chairs to the three councils. Seconded by Marshall McClarnon. Motion passes unanimously.

Hazel Smith appointed by Max Butler to the interim chair of the Diversity and Equity Council.

Jeff Syracuse appointed by Max Butler to the interim chair of the Music City Music Council.

Marshall McClarnon appointed by Max Butler to the interim chair of the Film and Television Advisory Council.

Populating the membership of the councils is deferred to a future meeting.

D. Data Committee - Differed to future meeting.

9. New Business:

- A. Update on the Greater Nashville Music Census - 1,200 have filled it out so far.
- B. Music Makes Us - an event at the Nashville Symphony on 3/26. Contact Franklin Willis if interested in attending the We Are Nashville Festival.
- C. Add to the Code Cleanup - non Commission members to serve on Councils.
- D. Motion from Stephanie Silverman for to Amend the Bylaws to allow the members of each Council to elect their chair once the Councils are formed. Second by Jeff Syracuse. Motion passes unanimously.

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: TBD

11. Next Meeting:

4/10/24

12. Adjourn Meeting:

Chair Max Butler adjourned the at 8:35 PM. Motion to adjourn from Jeff Syracuse. Seconded by Marshall McClarnon. Passed without objection.

APPROVED, this day 23rd of May 2024.

Signature on File
Max A. Butler, Chair

Signature on File
Marshall McClarnon, Secretary