

WASHINGTON COUNTY RAP ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

Chairman Gary Sanders called the RAP Advisory Board to order at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, in the Downstairs Conference Room of the Washington County Administration Building, 197 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, UT 84770. Those in attendance were: RAP Advisory Board; Gary Sanders, Summer Robertson, Todd Jones, Douglas Caputo, Allison Hunt, Richard Kohler and Clyde Johnston. Others in attendance included, Deputy County Attorney Natalie Nelson, Internal Clerk/Auditor Trevor Coombs, Deputy County Clerk Cheyenne W. Bentley, Executive Director of Development for Tuacahn Jeff Fisher, Tuacahn CEO Kevin Smith, COO Kevin Warnick, and Tuacahn Center for the Arts Board of Directors: Sue Cox, Nelson Hafen, and Dara Tancredi

WELCOME: CHAIRMAN GARY SANDERS

Chairman Gary Sanders welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 21, 2015

The board members did not have a chance to review the minutes from the July 21, 2015 meeting. It was determined to table the minutes until the next meeting.

CLARIFICATION OF INDIRECT COSTS

Gary Sanders explained that indirect costs are flat amounts used by organizations; specifically universities and research grants to pay for general operations. The board felt each organization needs to be specific about where funds are going.

Motion: **Motion by Clyde Johnston that all costs associated with the project should be specified on the application. Motion seconded by Todd Jones and carried by a unanimous vote.**

DISCUSSION OF FUND EXPENDITURE DATES

There have been several questions as to when the funds granted need to be expended. It was reiterated that as it states on the current cycle's application, any unused funds shall be returned to the County on December 31, 2017.

DISCUSSION OF EVALUATION FORM

Summer Robertson distributed a handout that showed how the evaluation of each application will be graded. She explained that each board member will be able to make comments and grade each application online.

The Board expressed a desire to consider several of the categories differently. It was discussed to

take ten (10) points from the 'Proposed Attribution Credit to RAP Tax Funding' category and apply it to the 'Artistic/ Cultural Development Contribution' category so as to give more weight to the two categories they felt to be the most important.

Motion: **Motion by Richard Kohler to add the word 'merit' to the second element and to take ten (10) of the weight points from 'Proposed Attribution' and move to 'Artistic/Cultural Development Contribution and Merit'. Motion seconded by Clyde Johnston and carried by a unanimous vote.**

PRESENTATION: TUACAHN - JEFF FISHER

Tuacahn's Executive Director of Development, Jeff Fisher distributed a copy of Tuacahn's application and gave a presentation to the Board explaining the purpose of Tuacahn and how it has become an asset in the community by becoming a large economic driver in Washington County.

Tuacahn Center for the Arts is in its twentieth (20th) season and is the largest professional theatre organization in the State of Utah. Mr. Fisher continued by stating that Tuacahn is a non-profit organization managed by means of a board and continued by giving: the history of Tuacahn; the benefits of being family oriented; sales figures; and the reasons behind the funding now being requested from the RAP Tax.

He continued by explaining that ninety-six percent (96%) of funds generated come from tickets, gift gallery and concessions. At this point, only four percent (4%) of funds are coming external, through contributions of public and private donations. Tuacahn is working on increasing that percentage.

Mr. Fisher explained that the State of Utah, Washington County and the surrounding cities receive direct benefit from Tuacahn's patrons and operations. He went on to state that Tuacahn is now seeking public funding from the County in assisting them to acquire a \$6 million dollar bond as part of a \$9.5 million dollar capital campaign.

Mr. Fisher then summarized the proposal and what Tuacahn is trying to accomplish by requesting a long-term commitment from the RAP Tax, Washington County and cities to help secure a twenty (20) year bond. Tuacahn is specifically asking for a ten (10) year commitment from the RAP Advisory Board at \$125,000 a year.

Following the presentation the RAP Advisory Board made comments, asked questions and discussed concerns. In the course of the discussion, the Rap Advisory Board encouraged Tuacahn to reach out to smaller organizations, possibly through a formal application process, allowing them the opportunity and possibility of utilizing Tuacahn's facilities.

The RAP Advisory Board also mentioned the benefit of making available to other organizations, items that Tuacahn is no longer in need of or items being replaced. This concept would help smaller organizations with additional opportunity to succeed. The Board also went on to express an interest in hearing Tuacahn's specific plans on reaching out to help other artists and local performers in the community and felt it necessary to have Tuacahn be held accountable for the monies received as well as follow through on suggestions that have been made. The Board will consider raising these recommendations and suggestions to the Commission.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled RAP Meeting: September 29, 2015

Having no other business, the RAP Advisory Board Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

CHEYENNE W. BENTLEY
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

GARY SANDERS
CHAIRMAN