

**Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for November 18, 2013**

Attendance: Sharon Whitney, Scott Mooy, Shauna Hart, Jenny Simmons, David Christensen, Stephanie Pollei, Brandon Beckstead, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Elaine Judd

Visitors: Clarissa Andersen, Amanda Thompson, David Thalmann (Murray Symphony)
Nanci Shino, Wendy White, Maureen Bryson, Diane Taylor, Craig Ferron (Band)
Bill Wright (Ballet Centre)
Cal Jones, LeaAnn Southwick (Miss Murray Pageant)
Susan Dalley, Michele Bartmess, Nolan Mitchell (Murray Arts Council)

1. Minutes for September 17 and October 15, 2013 were approved as written. Local art organizations were welcomed and introduced themselves. Mary Ann thanked everyone for their service and their willingness to work together.

2. October and November Event Reports
Haunted Tales had 237 entries, 39 winners, 149 attended storytelling night.
Murder Mayhem featured 5 stories, about 300 attended. Very successful.
Art Show featured 33 artists and 55 pieces of artwork. Scott and Sharon will help with the artshow reception on November 25.
Symphony had 386 attend.
Band concert had about 250 attend.

3. Group Reports
Concert Band is growing with 60 band members. They were encouraged to get an exact count for attendance which helps in the ZAP application. Jenny suggested they distribute comp tickets which would give them a count. She felt those with tickets are more likely to come. Brandon wasn't sure tickets were necessary because they are hard to get out. But they should still count the people. Mary Ann said comp tickets can become an advertising technique.

Symphony has about 80 members. They are experiencing good attendance growth (nearly 300% growth) and have been inviting other groups to perform with them. They have tried to be creative with the type of music and guests such as cowboy poetry. They use posters. They print postcards with a coupon on them and distribute them to members and music stores. They recorded a CD for last year's Christmas concert and will do the same for this year.

Ballet Centre produces a Christmas program, fairytale ballet, and a summer show. Mary Ann buses students to a matinee performance of their fairytale ballet. This year they are producing a student showcase that allows the students to choreograph.

Miss Murray Pageant featured 8 girls in this year's pageant. They also highlighted Little Miss with a 10 year Little Miss Murray reunion along with a new Miss Outstanding Teen.

The attendance was higher because of these other recognition elements this year. They included a video about the service involved. LeAnn invited the city to involve the queen. Shauna asked why they involve so few girls. LeAnn said it is harder when we are drawing from a smaller geographical area. They are trying to recruit more from Cottonwood High. They have had one queen from Cottonwood. Michele said they need to recruit older girls also. Mary Ann wished the swimsuit competition was eliminated. Cal said that the Miss America Pageant is a swimsuit pageant. Michele noted that they judged the swimsuit part in private one year but then they did not do well at the state level. Mary Ann said it is too bad the local pageant can't tell the state and the state tell the national pageant that the swimsuit portion is not necessary. The swimsuit portion is a small percentage of the total judging. Scott acknowledged the pageant was trying to recruit but in discussing the pageant with his daughter, he has identified two drawbacks. The girls find out that it is a lot of work and they think certain girls will win so they don't want to compete. Cal said that his daughter ran against others that everyone thought would win, but she won. She did it for the experience.

Murray Arts Council is doing a winter show, Forever Plaid. Their summer show will be Shrek. They are exploring new ideas to publicize. Mary Ann said she will try to pull all the musical shows together to talk about advertising.

4. Grant applications were distributed for the coming year. The financial page is different. The city funding for grants remains fairly stable. The board is responsible to review the grants to assure responsible use of city funds. We try to provide other ways to support each group by providing facilities and combined advertising. Mary Ann noted that grants and facility support differs for each group depending on their situation.
5. Arts in the Park tentative schedule and contracts for 2014 were distributed. It will include Oliver, Shrek, and Urinetown. Groups were asked to verify prices for their concerts.
6. Mary Ann distributed a new school rental policy. There is a category 2 that shows city events have no charge. However, there is another shared facility agreement that states the city and school district may charge each other for costs incurred such as supervisors and tech. A supervisor must be present at all time. It cannot be the tech person. The school district may waive the fee for supervisors if other rentals are in the building at the same time. This has been a learning curve for new district personnel. She noted that each group must provide proof of insurance.

LeaAnn wondered if they could request a female supervisor for the Miss Murray Pageant. Mary Ann said we could see if one is available. Mary Ann noted that Leesa may be able to serve as a supervisor but it requires custodial cleanup. Cal thought that the pageant might be able to do that.

7. Mary Ann shared a schematic design of the new Hillcrest Jr High. It will be done in May of 2015 and open that fall. It includes a 700 seat theater, stage space the size of

Murray High, ticket office, dressing rooms, 100 seat Little Theater, band and choral room, and shared permanent storage for band and symphony. It also includes a dance room. It does not include a pit or a fly system. She passed out the city/school agreement that guarantees a certain number of nights each year for each space including 17 weeks in the Little Theater, two weeks of theater and eight concert nights on the main stage, and 35 rehearsals in band room for both symphony and concert band. Groups will also have access to equipment such as sound shells. Mary Ann will help buy some equipment like body mics. Mary Ann noted that each group will have the option to choose what facility works for them. They might choose to use a different facility to meet specific space needs. Clarissa asked if they could name the auditorium something other than the junior high. Mary Ann noted that the facility received funding from the Eccles and Sorenson Foundation which may warrant some naming rights. But she will give that feedback to Mr. Tranter.

8. Mary Ann said the county facility is moving forward. The city-operated facility application was changed to a county run regional facility. Murray received a positive recommendation and a similar Taylorsville application received a negative recommendation. Some felt bad that they couldn't build both. The city has met with Mayor McAdams and are in the process of meeting other county council members. Mary Ann met with Mayor Cullimore from the TRCC committee.
9. Mary Ann said art facilities have been a major concern for the arts for many years. She has requested upgrades to the amphitheater which needs permanent dressing rooms, tech booth, concessions, ticket booth, and better bathrooms. Michele said the bathrooms are horrible. Sandy City has far superior facilities. Mary Ann did note that Murray has superior programming to other communities. Mary Ann also requested some upgrades to the armory for rehearsals and set building. We just need to keep working. Murray is much smaller than Sandy so we don't have as big of a budget.
10. Mary Ann noted that Nanci suggested we add Sunday concerts in the Park during the summer. Jenny really liked the idea. Mary Ann said the logistics need to be considered of how much extra effort it would take for staff. Mary Ann wondered if we were at the saturation point with many other activities during the summer. The Arts Advisory Board can discuss this further.
11. We will try to educate the new mayor about the needs of the arts.