



MEETING SYNOPSIS | Cultural Arts and Tourism Subcommittee

August 14, 2019

The following is a summary of the first meeting of the Elevate Advisory Council Cultural Arts and Tourism Subcommittee. The meeting attendance sheet is attached to this summary. The agenda and presentation slides can be found separately on the Elevate Tuscaloosa website.

Subcommittee members were provided an overview of the following proposed projects:

Bama Theatre:

- **Facility Enhancements**
- **Renovation Sequence**
- **Programmatic Opportunities**

Tuscaloosa Public Library:

- **Options for Modernizing**

Feasibility Study Update:

- **Conference Center**
- **Athletic and Events Center**

Bama Theatre

Mike Ellis (Ellis Architects) provided an overview of the Bama Theatre including: general facility information, types and numbers of bookings, and facility revenues and operating costs. He also reviewed photos of renovations of comparable theatres in other cities, needed improvements for the Bama Theatre, project costs, and a projected timeline.

Discussion Outcome:

- The subcommittee agreed that renovations may increase the revenues for the theatre.
- Consideration must be given to the windows of opportunity for construction due to scheduled events and PARA offices being affected.
- Ellis Architects will begin design work soon. As the project progresses, the committee will review and prioritize recommendations.

Tuscaloosa Public Library

Rick Freemon (Tuscaloosa Public Library) provided an overview of the library, including how the library is funded and how those funds are used. He also presented information concerning the use of the current facility and priorities for future renovations

Discussion Outcome:

- A discussion concerning the need for upgrading the current facility vs. construction of a new facility at a different location was conducted.
- Mr. Freemon stated an alternate site had been discussed in the past but renovations at the current site were more cost effective at that time.
- More discussion is needed to determine the most effective way to address the library's facility needs and programming opportunities.

Feasibility Study Update

Glenda Webb (City of Tuscaloosa) provided an overview of a Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the city to select a consultant to complete a feasibility study. The study will address Tuscaloosa's ability to support either a conference center or an athletic and events center, or both. She asked subcommittee members to provide two nominations for the RFP review team.

Discussion Outcome:

- Subcommittee members nominated Don Staley and Heather Dill to serve on the RFP review team, along with city staff.
- The subcommittee will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Next Steps






The subcommittee will advance the following recommendations to the Elevate Advisory Council at the August 28 Meeting:

- Design work for the Bama Theatre.
- Mr. Staley and Ms. Dill will review the feasibility study submittals in late 2019 and provide an update at the following subcommittee meeting.

The next subcommittee meeting will be scheduled at a later date.



Name		Subcommittee	Signature
Karen	Brooks	Co-Chair	<i>Karen Brooks</i>
Chris	England	Co-Chair	
Joseph	Brown	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>Rob Steward Rob Steward</i>
Jim	Page	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>[Signature]</i>
Gene	Poole	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jimmy	Warren	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>[Signature]</i>
Heather	Dill	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>[Signature]</i>
Sarah	Patterson	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>[Signature]</i>
Tyshawn	Gardner	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>Tyshawn Gardner</i>
Sandy	Wolfe	Cultural Arts and Tourism	
Rick	Freemon	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>Richard H. Freeman</i>
Don	Staley	Cultural Arts and Tourism	<i>[Signature]</i>

Name	Signature
Jason Wawer	
MEL STEPHENS WVTM	
JEFF ELIASO H WVTM	
Jason Morton The Tuscaloosa News	
Eddie Tugh city TUSC.	
Tyshawn Gardner Stillman	