

A meeting of the Cultural District Advisory Board (CDAB) was held on June 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall Executive Conference Room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Chairman Bonnie Hargrove, advisory board members Carol Lauvray and Megan Morris, and Linda Roper, city staff. Board members Lynda Dyer, Jacque Wedler, and Mary Jane Martin were absent. Lisa Sundrla, Beaufort Area Hospitality Association, and Tzipi Radonsky were guests.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d) as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting.

While waiting for board members to arrive to achieve a quorum, Chairman Hargrove said the Center for the Arts (CFA) is looking to do a “women’s wellness weekend,” with “tracks” participants can go through (e.g., “experiences” and “spiritual/mental wellness,” such as “challenging and renewing yourself”). **Natalie Daise** is re-doing her show to incorporate other women from Reconstruction and the Civil War, Chairman Hargrove said, and **Sherma Andrews**, who performs “all the legendry lady singers,” will participate.

Chairman Hargrove asked Ms. Radonsky about being involved in the weekend by leading a “gathering moment,” and Ms. Radonsky agreed.

The weekend will take place on March 20 and 21, 2020, Chairman Hargrove said. There was general discussion of the possibilities for tracks. Ms. Sundrla suggested a track on “wellness in Victorian times.” Chairman Hargrove said they want to do a class on journaling and writing one’s personal history; Ms. Lauvray suggested a local writer who leads workshops in this.

Some events in the weekend would require a ticket, while others would be free, Chairman Hargrove said.

PRESENTATION: “BEFORE I DIE” PUBLIC ART PROJECT [L]
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Ms. Radonsky said her grandson teaches art at a middle school; he saw the “Before I Die” project in Asheville and wants to do it here.

Ms. Radonsky said she has been “very interested in death” for five years. She wanted to do a “death café” and asked OLLI about it, but the administration there didn't think OLLI was “ready for that.” Death cafés started in Europe; people come together and discuss death and life, she said.

No one talks about death, Ms. Radonsky said, which is why the Before I Die project, which was begun by a TED fellow, **Candy Chang**, is important. Some people think the project is a sort of “bucket list,” but it is not like that at all, Ms. Radonsky said.

Ms. Radonsky said Ms. Chang found a wall on an abandoned building that they painted with black chalkboard paint. It says, "Before I die, I want to . . ." and chalk is provided for people to fill in what they want to do before they die. In a day, the wall Ms. Chang started was filled by people expressing themselves "about living," Ms. Radonsky said. Ms. Chang then wrote a Before I Die book in 2013, filled with photos from her favorite installations, which are now found all over in the world.

Ms. Radonsky said this project is "about choosing life, and putting it out there." She and her grandson think of this as "a community-building project." The project provides an opportunity to pause and look inside ourselves, she said, and it honors our mortality.

Ms. Radonsky showed a Before I Die guide, which tells how to do an installation in any community, and provides details such as where to buy the stencils.

Ms. Radonsky said they are thinking about making the installation movable, rather than permanent, and she suggested it could be placed on the Spanish Moss Trail, in Washington Street Park, downtown by "the oldest ice cream place," at the Port Royal farmer's market, Lowe's, the St. Helena library, and the Santa Elena parking lot. Ms. Radonsky said it's important that they have diversity, so this is not a "white project."

CDAB could help by getting the word out about the Before I Die project among its organizations, Ms. Radonsky said, though "funds would be great," too.

Taking pictures of the wall and distributing them to the media would be another way to foster connection, Ms. Radonsky said.

Ms. Lauvray asked, after the Before I Die project is done, how do "we incorporate that unification . . . on an ongoing basis, or make it kind of permanent?" Ms. Radonsky said she would think about that. Ms. Lauvray said it's a great project, and if it were truly diverse, it would foster people's "like-thinking," and show that the differences between us aren't so great.

Ms. Radonsky said her grandson had designed something like a chalkboard that would be able to be moved to different locations.

Ms. Morris arrived at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hargrove called the meeting to order at 2:41 p.m.

MINUTES

Ms. Lauvray abstained from voting on the minutes because she was not present at the May 16, 2019 meeting. There was not a quorum of members present who had attended the May 16 meeting, so **approval of the May 16, 2019 minutes was tabled** until such a

quorum was able to vote.

BOARD MEMBER TERMS, APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES

Ms. Roper discussed the ordinance and distributed a handout with the relevant section on it to the board. The terms of all CDAB members are expiring soon or have expired, she said. There was discussion about staggering the terms and how that should be structured.

Ms. Roper said the chairs of all other city boards and commissions remain the chair for the length of their term, which she thinks should be the case with CDAB. She thinks they should determine which organization representatives should have 3, 2, and 1-year terms. The at-large member is already serving a 3-year term, she said.

Ms. Morris said she feels the City of Beaufort representative should serve a 3-year term. Ms. Roper said that representative is appointed annually by the city manager, per the ordinance. She said **Rhonda Carey** is going to be the next city representative to CDAB.

Another 3-year role needs to be filled, and the rest would be two-year terms, Ms. Morris said. Chairman Hargrove said the CFA would stay with a 3-year term, and the CVB representative could be the other 3-year term, with the museums having two-year terms. The board members agreed. Ms. Lauvray will continue to represent the Beaufort History Museum, she said, and Ms. Roper said she would check with Ms. Wedler about Historic Beaufort Foundation (HBF). Ms. Morris agreed to remain on the board in a two-year term for Santa Elena Foundation.

Ms. Roper said the next step is to take this to city council for its approval.

Chairman Hargrove asked that the updated dates for term expirations be entered into the record:

- Ms. Wedler's/HBF's, Ms. Morris'/Santa Elena Foundation's, and Ms. Lauvray's/Beaufort History Museum's two-year terms will expire on 6-30-21.
- Chairman Hargrove's/CFA's and Ms. Dyer's/CVB's three-year terms would expire on 6-30-22.
- Ms. Carey's one-year appointment as the city representative expires 6-30-20, as does the remainder of Ms. Martin's at-large term.

Ms. Lauvray made a motion to approve the establishment of these board terms: 2 years for the museums, 3 years for CVB, CFA, and the at-large member. Ms. Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

When the board elects the chair, that should determines when that person's term expires, Ms. Roper said. She feels they shouldn't elect chairs annually but when the current chair's term expires.

Chairman Hargrove asked if they could ask city council about CDAB having a co-chair. Ms. Roper said they could.

Ms. Morris asked if they should wait on officer elections until they know who the organizations' representatives would be. Chairman Hargrove said she agrees with doing that.

Chairman Hargrove said she wants to stay on the board, but she wants to share the chairmanship or have someone else take it over for the sake of bringing in "new blood" to the role. Ms. Morris said she understands what Chairman Hargrove means, and she feels it is a good idea to have voting for officers once the new terms begin, which would be at CDAB's July meeting.

Ms. Lauvray asked if board members could send representatives in their place if they couldn't attend a CDAB meeting. Ms. Roper said yes, but that person couldn't vote.

Ms. Sundrla suggested that it wouldn't be a bad idea to have the co-chair "shadow" Chairman Hargrove in anticipation of taking over the chairmanship at the end of her term. Chairman Hargrove agreed. Ms. Radonsky agreed, too, and said the co-chairs should "share the responsibility."

Chairman Hargrove said she would like for board members to send other representatives of their organizations in their stead when they couldn't make meetings.

Ms. Morris said on March 21, 2019, CDAB adopted "a goals and structure outline," with board members heading various committees.

MORE ON THE "BEFORE I DIE" PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Ms. Morris asked how long these projects usually continue. Ms. Radonsky said she feels the locations should vary, and she had the idea of doing it for 6 months, putting it in different places. Chairman Hargrove said there might be city buildings that they could paint with chalk paint, which could be painted over. Ms. Radonsky said the Spanish Moss Trail goes right through Seabrook, and there are buildings that belong to the trail now, not to the families that once owned them.

Ms. Morris said HBF might have a renovation project they are working on that the Before I Die project could go on, which would highlight HBF's project, too. Ms. Sundrla said they could kick the Before I Die project off at a festival or an activity, and then it could go "on tour" to different venues.

Chairman Hargrove said she personally wants to support the Before I Die project, but she needs to know what that means for CDAB, which needs "something more to vote on," so they can place it into the board's year.

Ms. Roper suggested Ms. Radonsky brainstorm some more and come back to CDAB. Ms. Radonsky suggested the Pat Conroy Literary Festival, which a board member said is in October. Ms. Radonsky said Heritage Days are also in October, as is Shrimp Festival. There was general discussion about where the wall could start and end.

Ms. Radonsky said occasionally people make comments that need to be erased, so the wall needs to be monitored.

Ms. Sundrla said Restaurant Week is in September and January. Chairman Hargrove asked if there's any connection between that and the Before I Die project that Ms. Sundrla could see. Ms. Sundrla feels the wall needs to be at "a festival-type location" first to build excitement about the project. Ms. Radonsky said when Ms. Chang put the wall up, there was no advertisement or anything, and it was filled overnight.

There was general discussion about how the project could begin. Chairman Hargrove said they could have a small opening event and include various groups to ensure that diversity is represented. Ms. Roper said they could then promote the Before I Die project on social media, publicizing the locations where it has been and will be, with people discussing what it means to them.

ROUND TABLE – ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES FROM BOARD MEMBERS SEP

Ms. Lauvray discussed the annual encampment at The Arsenal, which will be March 13 – 15, 2020, and said they hope to have freedmen represented this time.

Ms. Morris said there are still opportunities for students in third through fifth grades and sixth through eighth grades to participate in a weeklong "history explorers camp," put on by a partnership of Reconstruction Beaufort Inc., HBF, and Santa Elena Foundation.

Ms. Roper said the city is hosting DragonBoat Beaufort, and there has been some nice work done in Waterfront Park.

Ms. Sundrla said on July 9, BAHA would give its annual report to city council. Tonight, Best Western is celebrating its renovation, she said, and Home 2 Suites has opened on Trask Parkway and is having its grand opening tonight.

Ms. Lauvray said the Beaufort History Museum's lecture series starts in September.

Chairman Hargrove said this summer is the first time the CFA has shown "National Theater Live," which features filmed live theatrical performances. They're shown on Sunday afternoons. The CFA is starting a program called "Engage," she said, which is a series that "opens the space" once a month to talk about different topics.

Chairman Hargrove said there are 40 to 50 kids in the “Broadway Bound” children’s summer theater camp.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chairman Hargrove adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.