



EDWARDSVILLE – SIUE COMMUNITY DESTINATION GROUP MINUTES March 16, 2021

Call to Order: 6:04 pm

Present: Chairman Chad Verbais, Paul Pitts, Cary Harvengt, Melissa McDonough-Borden, Cheryl Watson, Joel Hardman, and Tyler Manning (6:49 pm arrival)

Also Present: Desiree Gerber

Absent: Kaitlyn Kyle, Madelyn Walters, and Ronald Akpan

Review of February Minutes: Paul Pitts made a motion to approve the February minutes and Missy McDonough-Borden seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

Financial Report: Cheryl stated that there has been no change with budget remaining at \$6,550.01. However, the last day for claims is April 23, 2021.

Springboard: Chad explained that Springboard will be different this year due to COVID-19 safety precautions, and will be a one day event with 95 students per session and twenty sessions on Tuesdays through Fridays beginning May 25, 2021 running through June 25, 2021. Each session will have an exhibit fair from 2:20—2:50 pm and 2:55—3:25 pm.

There will be no bus tour or presentation at the Wildey Theatre. However, Chad proposed the creation of a video tour that would serve as a virtual tour and preserve Edwardsville as it is in 2021. There was discussion how the video tour would be useful for the Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau and new patrons to the Edwardsville Public Library.

Chad stated that the estimated cost for updates to the Springboard video are between \$1,300--\$1,400, and the tour video cost estimate is from \$2,700--\$2,900. Cary made a motion to spend no more than \$4,500 total on both videos and Joel seconded the motion. Chad took a roll call vote and all were in favor of spending no more than \$4,500 total on both videos.

High School Counselor Zoom-In: The SIUE High School Counselor Fly-In has been changed to a Zoom-In this year and will take place on Thursday, March 18, 2021. The city representatives this year will be Fire Chief James Whiteford, Director of Parks and Recreation Nate Tingley, Director of Information and Technology Devin Gray, Ward 3 Alderperson Janet Stack, Major Michael Fillback from the Police Department, Director of Human Resources Amanda Tucker, and City Attorney Jeff Berkbigler. The time slot allocated for the city representatives is from 2:20—2:40 pm. Counselors from Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and New Mexico will be present via Zoom.

20th Anniversary of the Edwardsville Arts Center Art Contest: Missy stated that an EAC board member is working with Sherrie Hickman from Creative Options to create the template for the artists. There will be a Patron of the Arts 20th Anniversary Exhibition beginning on July 16 and running through August in which the artwork for this contest will be displayed. She is hopeful that contest winners will be selected in June. The EAC founders will have art on display in the main room.

Missy said that Sherrie stated that the name and category could be placed on the banners. There will be eight categories with a first and second place winner for each category for a total of 16 banners. These 16 banners would be displayed in the City and on the SIUE campus. Missy is going to obtain cost estimates from Sherrie Hickman for art setup and fabrication.

City Admins/Student Government website at SIUE: Tyler has spoken with Sarah, who is working with Student Government to create a website and Cary is going to send Tyler all of the information. Cary was concerned because there will be some changes to City government. Tyler said he will administration access and be able to update the website in real time.

Rotary Student Leader of the Month: Tyler reported that Megan Walsh, a senior Anthropology major, was selected as Rotary Student of the Month for February. She is President of the Anthropology Club, a participant in the SIUE Legacy Advance Leaders Program, and is the Public Relations Officer of the SIUE Philosophy Club. The Rotary Student Leader of the Month for March will be voted on this Friday.

Tyler reported that the Rotary Student Leaders would be recognized during the Kimmel Awards Recognition Week of April 26—30. He believe this will be posted on the SIUE Kimmel Instagram page and the SIUE Kimmel Student Involvement Center Facebook page.

Safe Zone Training and Anti-Racism Training opportunities: Chad reported that even after contacting the person that Cary suggested there still has been no response from the YMCA. The focus needs to be on where to target next. Paul volunteered to contact his minister, who is part of the Ministerial Alliance, and Chad will share the links with information regarding the training. Cary thought the Edwardsville Public Library may be an avenue as they collaborate with SIUE on programming, and she also thought one of the Rotary organization or Chamber of Commerce may be another option.

Other Business: Cary reported that the Edwardsville Public Library will be conducting a collaborative community read project throughout the spring and summer. The IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness) Book Club will have the primary goals as of the moment:

Book 1 - Find a speaker with expertise in these areas willing to lead an in-person (we hope) conversation/Q&A on “The Color of Law” by Richard Rothstein – for **Thursday, May 6** evening (or near that date if we need to be flexible). Jill Schardt, the Library Director, is trying to schedule a room on the upper floor of the Wildey. Dr. Timothy Lewis is not available. Jill has left a voicemail with Ezra Temko for ideas. Joel has volunteered to look for a person for this, but Ideas from others are welcome. We will need to begin promoting this first book as soon as possible since we have two library staff book club events before the speaker. Cary has asked that we please forward ideas/contacts to Jill directly, or “reply all.”

Book 2 – “Nickel Boys” – Dr. Howard Rambsy (SIUE) has agreed to be the speaker – June 3.

Book 3—“The Warmth of Other Suns” by Isabel Wilkerson has a tentative date of July 15 or July 22. Joel suggested the book, “Caste” by the same author and Cary will share this with Jill.

Chad asked if there was anything new from the remaining items on the agenda: Hashbrown Huddle, new ideas for community tradition, bring campus into the Edwardsville community ideas, and bring Edwardsville community to campus ideas. No one had anything additional to add.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6 pm.

Adjournment: Cheryl Watson made a motion to adjourn, Tyler Manning seconded the motion, and all were in favor of adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Signature.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Velas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".