

Boren Property Advisory Council
June 14, 2024
Minutes

Board Members Present

Charlsa Boren Bentley, Chair
Barbara Black
Tom Sale
W.L. Sanders
Pete McCaskill

Board Members Absent

Staff in Attendance:

Jessica Martinez, Recreation Manager
Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor
Pamela O'Hearn, Program Instructor/Customer Service Attendant, Recording Secretary

Guests

Cassandra Havas
Karen Kaiser

1. Call to order: 10:00 AM
2. Approve the minutes from the February 9, 2024, meeting.
A motion was made by Tom Sale and Seconded by Barbara Black to approve the minutes as presented.
The motion passed unanimously.
3. Reports and Discussion Items:

A. Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding activities of the Historical Advisory Committee. (Presenter-Barbara Black, Historical Advisory Committee Chair)
Barbara Black gave a report of events since the February 9, 2024, BPAC meeting to present.

A discussion followed.

- **The Following discussion, questions and answers are paraphrased and not direct quotes.**

Barbara Black asked for thoughts on identifying items in the Russell-Boren house so visitors would know what they were looking at. Charlsa Boren Bentley mentioned a handout or audio tour. Mary Ann Spaun asked for 3 items of significance in each room to be identified so that staff members could give tours.

Charlsa Boren Bentley stated that she had taken the pin that Hattie Lace had to a Jeweler in Austin to have it put in a shadowbox with a note from Louise Boren to put into the display.

Question: Who finds docents?

Answer: We have one new docent. We don't have in place a method to recruit docents. We have asked Hill College.

Charlsa Boren Bentley, thoughts, not all docents are on the Historical Committee or Friends of Russell Farm. Charlsa would like to send the Historical Committee and docents along with other key volunteers the monthly Fresh off the Farm newsletter that she creates. Would Charlsa be able to get an email list?

Answer: Yes.

Tom Sale said that he will encourage the Saturday Morning Sketch Group to join the Friends of Russell Farm.

B. Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding the Art Advisory Committee. (Contact: Tom Sale, Art Advisory Committee Chair)

Tom Sale gave a report of events since the February 9, 2024, BPAC meeting to present.

Tom Sale stepped down as Art Advisory Committee Chair. Karen Kaiser agreed to step in as the Art Advisory Committee Chair.

A discussion followed.

- **The Following discussion, questions and answers are paraphrased and not direct quotes.**

Charlsa Boren Bentley spoke about the Use Agreement and Deed.

She said, the use agreement was put in place and the property will never come back to Charlsa or her heirs will never take the property back. Only Charlsa or her heirs would take the property back if the City of Burleson was in violation and did not cure within 120 days. Then the property would be given to Texas Wesleyan University or another institution. The City of Burleson will never sell or develop the property. The City of Burleson can never give it to an individual. The Russell Boren property can only be given to an entity. Charlsa stated that by putting the use agreement in place, they did what they could to protect the property.

There was a question about the next Red Chair Lecture. Answer, it is being arranged for the fall. There will be a Red Chair lecture in the spring and fall.

Charlsa stated that she had a desire to have wood sculptures promoted, classes, shows, anything.

It was stated that Saturday afternoons tend to have better attendance for Red Chair lectures and not part of the First Saturday events.

C. Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding activities at Russell Farm Art Center. (Staff Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

Mary Ann Spaun gave a report of events and activities since the February 9, 2024, BPAC meeting to present.

A discussion followed.

- **The Following discussion, questions and answers are paraphrased and not direct quotes.**

Goals are to keep the Garage Art Center conversion in the forefront.

In three years will be the 150 - year anniversary and would like to be able to showcase the artists.

Question: Is Russell Farm in the City Master Plan?

Answer: The Art Master Plan Considering Russell Farm. The City of Burleson is bringing in consultants to consider an Art Master Plan. Russell Farm is in the Parks Master Plan.

Dairy Barn – Charlie Boren Gallery was important to Louise Boren. It was important to Louise that people viewed the sculptures.

Access-Challenges, Charlsa would like to see more ways to make it accessible and more visually appealing to enter. Would like to be able to open the double doors to the Charlie Boren Gallery so that more people would go to the Dairy Barn and view the sculptures.

Question: Are stories on the sculptures are available?

Answer: Yes, Louise gave an interview of the items of the Dairy Barn.

Pete McCaskill was asked to write down what he knows of the sculptures, and he agreed to do that. Tom Sale stated that he would like to listen to Pete tell the stories and record it and transcribe.

Question: Is Steve Ross coming back?

Answer: Steve Ross was asked about doing a September workshop and haven't heard back. Will contact again about next spring.

4. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairperson Charlsa Boren Bentley adjourned the meeting.

Time: 11:25 AM.

Pamela O'Hearn

Program Instructor/Customer Service Attendant, Recording Secretary

