

MINUTES

OKLAHOMA FILM & MUSIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Governor's Large Conference Room, State Capitol
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

COMMISSIONERS

Present

Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins
Steve Alter
Byron Berline
Chad Burris
Lael Erickson
Gray Frederickson
Kathy Henry
Jeanne Hoffman Smith
Chris Salyer

Absent

Margo Gray
Max Weitzenhoffer

STAFF

Brett Adkins
Claudia Conner
Dino Lalli
Julie Porter
Jill Simpson
Amanda Stonebarger

GUESTS

John Shryock

OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Governor Jari Askins at 3:08 p.m. Jill Simpson, Director of the Oklahoma Film & Music Office, confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Act. Introductions were made, including new members to the Oklahoma Film & Music Office staff: Patrick Chalfant, director of Tulsa Film & Music Office; Brett Adkins, Film & Music Development Coordinator; and Amanda Stonebarger, Administrative Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Salyer moved and Kathy Henry seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008, meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT ON FILM & MUSIC OFFICE ACTIVITIES

- Oklahoma Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain
 - Two-week-long intensive arts academy for high school students every summer
 - Jill attended in June and spoke with the students in the Film & Video program about the industry. She has joined their Advisory Board because this presents the opportunity to reach out to high school students.
- Southern Legislative Conference
 - Jill made a presentation on strategic planning, strengths, and weaknesses in the Oklahoma industry
 - Conference was well attended
- State Rock and Roll Song
 - There were thousands of submissions
 - Nominations are closed, and panel will select 10 songs
 - Announcement of 10 finalists will be made in September 2008; the songs will posted to Another Hot Oklahoma Night's website for voting.
- DFEST
 - OF&MO sponsored the festival
 - Official attendance numbers are not yet available, but they seem to be slightly down from 2007; however, the quality of talent has improved
- Industry Development Meetings
 - Recent Film and Music Development meetings have been cancelled because of the low number of RSVPs. Jill asked that Board members think of ideas for raising attendance.
 - The next Film Development meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2008
- Location Database
 - There have been challenges in completing the RFP, but the new RFP closes August 19, 2008. It will be promptly scored so that OF&MO can begin to update the database.
- Overhaul of OklahomaFilm.org
 - Miles Media is redesigning all websites for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department; OF&MO will meet with them to brainstorm ideas
 - Main goals for the new site are streaming video and searchable film and music guides
 - Julie Porter asked that any additional ideas for the new website be e-mailed to her
- *Belle Starr*
 - Feature film directed by Ron Maxwell and produced by Fred Ulrich
 - Gray Frederickson has been assisting OF&MO with this project. He, Jill, Dino, and the director and producer will be scouting for locations in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Tahlequah in September. The Colcord Hotel in Oklahoma City and the Crowne Plaza in Tulsa are helping with accommodations.
 - Kathy Henry offered to assist.
- *Quanah*
 - AMC has decided not to move forward with the television pilot.
 - Writer Alison Anders is reworking the script into a feature, and possibly looking to work with the Coen brothers on the project.
 - Anders is also working on another feature film script for Oklahoma, and OF&MO is working to secure both projects.
- *August: Osage County*

- New feature produced by Weinstein Co. and based on Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize-winning play
- Jill is appealing to the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor's office, and the board members for ideas on how to secure this project. Kathy Henry noted that the play is coming to Tulsa.
- OF&MO has been corresponding with Billie Letts through Lynn McIntosh, and has sent a letter to Tracy Letts asking that he suggest Oklahoma as a possible production venue when possible.

NEW BUSINESS

- Potential Legislative Roundtable
 - Sujit Canaga-Retna of the Southern Legislative Conference and Representative Winchester are assisting OF&MO in setting up a Legislative Roundtable.
 - The Governor's Roundtable will sponsor
 - Legislative Roundtable meeting will take place in January 2009; it must wait until after elections have been conducted and committees have been assigned.
- Department of Commerce/Governor's Roundtable Music Industry Development
 - John Reid, formerly of ODOC, is now at the Governor's Roundtable and focused on economic development.
 - Task force met in July to strategize how to begin generating jobs and growth. Secretary Natalie Shirley
 - Jill stated that OF&MO is working on a plan to keep film, music, and digital media all together in these strategies.
- Career Tech Curriculum Development
 - Jill and Julie met with members of Career Tech to discuss adding training for all crew positions and workshops to their curriculum.
 - Possible results of this enhanced curriculum include a youth film festival. If the theme were focused on tourism, it could possibly bring in corporate sponsorship
 - Gray Frederickson suggested that Career Tech programs also include film-centered special effects make-up, as well as script supervising and accounting training.
- Tulsa Film & Music Office Update
 - 4-5 films and commercials are currently being shot in Tulsa
 - TF&MO has enjoyed support from Mayor Kathy Taylor
 - Patrick Chalfant commended Lt. Governor Askins for attending the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show
 - TF&MO has been working with a young professionals' organization called Typros. This relationship will prove to be a beneficial networking opportunity.
- Incentives Discussion
 - Jill appealed to the board for ideas for a fresh approach to incentives rather than making revisions to the existing system. OF&MO will compile a list of other states' incentives packages and provide it to board members for comparison.
 - Chad Burris suggested that focus be shifted to music production and lower budget films. It is difficult for Oklahoma to compete with states like New York, Louisiana, and New Mexico because it is not a proven film success. Producers of large projects see it as a risk.
 - Kathy Henry noted that legislators do not effectively understand creative industry.
- Tourism Development Act
 - Lower minimum expenditure thresholds go in place for film and music facilities on July 1, 2009.

- OCCC and Oklahoma Film Institute (OFI)
 - Press will be informed of launch of new soundstage; new equipment will include AVID Inferno.
 - OFI attendance is down; there are plans to possibly team up with Jenks High School for a project for the OCCC OFI summer camp.

ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m. with a motion by Lieutenant Governor Askins and a second by Kathy Henry. All voted in favor. Motion carried.