

MINUTES

OKLAHOMA FILM & MUSIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 8, 2007
Blue Room, State Capitol
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

COMMISSIONERS

Present

Byron Berline
Lael Erickson
Gray Frederickson
Margo Gray

Kathy Henry
Steve Ripley
Lt. Governor Jari Askins, Chair

Absent

Charles "Chuck" Cissel
Jeanne Hoffman Smith
Max Weitzenhoffer

STAFF

Bob Mathes
Jill Simpson
Terri Wilkerson

GUESTS

Dick Pryor
OETA (2)

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Governor Jari Askins at 2:00 p.m. Jill Simpson, Director of the Oklahoma Film and Music Office, confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Act. Introductions were made.

OPENING REMARKS

Jill Simpson said that, should SB 623 pass, activities are underway already to allow quick action. Simpson said she and Assistant Attorney General Claudia Conner have met with the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) to look at contract requirements. In response to questions regarding when it would be known if the bill passes, Lt. Governor Askins said the legislature must adjourn by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25, so it would be before that or not at all this session. She added that there could be some indication as early as May 16.

Kathy Henry asked if commission members should be on call for lobbying. Simpson said she would stay in touch and let everyone know.

Simpson shared that meetings with the music industry are going well, and that there has been discussion of an Oklahoma Music Foundation similar to Austin's program, and a live showcase for Oklahoma bands and performers. She said the OFMO has worked hard to reach everyone, and has been sending out meeting notes afterwards.

Kathy Henry complimented the OFMO staff, saying she had been to almost all the meetings and that it has been interesting to watch it evolve. She stated that, "All of us can do more than *each* of us."

Ms. Simpson reminded everyone of the reception that evening and pointed out the Talking Points provided in their packets. She said about 32 legislators were expected, and that Oklahoma food and beverages would be featured, along with music from Horseshoe Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kathy Henry moved and Lael Erickson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2007, meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT ON FILM & MUSIC OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Jill Simpson provided an update on recent activities, including:

- Scouting is underway for *Under Blanesfield*, a \$3-\$5 million production by Jeff Lester out of LA. They are trying to replicate Kansas, and the OFMO was able to provide something for every location he requested.
- Simpson's attendance at AFCI Locations Expo. OklaTravelNet, a new broadband channel promoting Oklahoma tourism, was featured on a big screen in the OFMO booth. OklaTravelNet staff also attended. Simpson said OklaTravelNet was helpful in making beautiful Oklahoma footage available to the film industry for scouting purposes.
- Monthly meetings under way for both film and music, alternating between Oklahoma City and Tulsa.
- D-Fest sponsorship with *Oklahoma Today* Magazine.
- *Splinter* prepping this month to shoot in July. A \$1.5 million budgeted thriller film.
- *Ivory*, about the competitive world of concert pianists, is in the works, pending final funding.

DISCUSSED TALKING POINTS FOR MAY 8 RECEPTION

Jill Simpson said the most important talking point for the reception is passage of SB 623. Simpson said the bill is crucial in recruiting several projects under discussion. The bill was held up due to the Oklahoma Tax Commission placing an economic impact on it for FY2008, which caused the bill to go back to committee. If the bill passes, the OFMO will advertise in the trade publications.

Ms. Simpson said that post-Katrina, there was a \$300 million impact from shooting in Shreveport. She said Oklahoma has the ability to match Louisiana's incentives side-by-side on low budget films. Lael Erickson asked if that information could be available to hand out at the reception. Simpson said it was not compiled to hand out, but that it could be discussed and the OFMO would make it available for follow-up. Erickson asked about getting a list of all films shot in Oklahoma, and if there was access to footage, including behind-the-scenes footage. Simpson said some is available, but most is on DVD rather than film. Kathy Henry suggested putting a call on the web site requesting the footage from filmmakers.

There was discussion of an industry committee that would meet quarterly and make an annual presentation to the industry.

The commission discussed the need to stop the "creative brain drain:"

- As a state, we are spending money to better educate our youth, who are then going to move out of state. Need to find a way to keep them here.
- Need to start at the elementary level.
- Need growth of film education.
- Possibility of a PSA using Oklahoma actors and musicians. OKLAFilm and OKLAMusic spots. Discussed budget issues; perhaps can be done pro bono.
- Get Oklahomans featured on award shows to talk about the state. Make them honorary Film & Music Commissioners.
- Need Oklahoma Film & Music Ambassadors.
- Spur public interest to push legislation.
- Utilize pod casts. Low cost.

The commission discussed having a working session at the next meeting, with commissioners to think of what is needed to get the message out.

Bob Mathes said many of the state's musicians will be here in November for the Centennial celebration, providing a good opportunity for a discussion with them.

Ms. Simpson said Dan Foliart will be performing his Oklahoma Trilogy with the OKC Philharmonic this year. Kathy Henry said she is on the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra Board, and could look into a tie in.

Byron Berline said performers from Oklahoma are on board about Oklahoma, but the commission will need to communicate to them exactly what they want them to do. Kathy

Henry said when Oklahomans are out of the state for extended periods, they don't realize what is happening "back home."

Commission members from Tulsa said the Oklahoma Centennial CD set is not available in Tulsa, and asked Simpson to check on the status of making it available there. In some cases, those who provided songs for the CD have never received a copy.

ADJOURN

Lt. Governor Askins called for adjournment. Margo Gray moved and Gray Frederickson seconded a motion to adjourn. The Commission adjourned at 3:20 p.m.