

MINUTES

OKLAHOMA FILM & MUSIC ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Governor's Large Conference Room, State Capitol
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

COMMISSIONERS

Present

Lael Erickson
Gray Frederickson
Margo Gray
Kathy Henry
Steve Ripley
Jeanne Hoffman Smith
Max Weitzenhoffer

Absent

Charles "Chuck" Cissel
Byron Berline
Lt. Governor Mary Fallin

STAFF

Dino Lalli
Jill Simpson
Jessika Lauren
Terri Wilkerson
Sarah Mussett
Hardy Watkins

GUESTS

Barbie Harris
Sunrise Tippeconnie

The meeting was called to order by Jill Simpson, Director of Oklahoma Film & Music Office, at 2:00 p.m. Terri Wilkerson asked if compliance with the Open Meeting Act had been met, and Ms. Simpson replied that it had. Margo Gray arrived at 2:02 p.m. and Kathy Henry arrived shortly thereafter at 2:04 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Jill Simpson proceeded with opening remarks, including:

- A summary of her experience at the American Film Market in Los Angeles, CA, highlighting good prospects on the newly introduced and well received Indion Tax Credit.
- Tour of Moore/Norman VoTech Center on November 13th to discuss developing curriculum for a film/video crew training program.

Hardy Watkins and Sarah Mussett arrived at 2:20 p.m. Jill Simpson introduced them to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lael Erickson moved and Kathy Henry seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2006 meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT ON FILM & MUSIC OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Jill Simpson provided an update on recent activities, including:

- Networking trip to Los Angeles to attend the American Film Market to promote Oklahoma's Film Incentives as well as Indion's tax credits. Conducted meetings with industry professionals.
- Early stages of development of an OCU Scoring Program.
- Need for input on proposals for the upcoming legislative session in regards to the film incentives cap and the minimum requirements for budget and crew.
- Need for educating our legislature on other state's effective and successful approaches to film incentive programs.
- Summary of the *Grace* shoot at the Memorial and distribution prospects for the pilot.
- Cancellation of shoot for *Seasons of Dust* due to lead actors' romantic breakup.
- Announcement of the next Oklahoma Music Industry Group meeting and development of a Music Industry Database and website.

The group discussed the need to improve the current incentives by changing some of the requirements, as well as the need for internal support. Simpson said there is interest in LA based on the current incentives, especially in light of the Indion deal, but other states are still meeting and going beyond what Oklahoma is offering.

Lael Erickson suggested developing concise talking points for educating legislature on film incentives.

The group discussed the need for an investor group to propel initiatives forward. Jill Simpson stated that it may be more attractive to potential investors to invest in a slate of projects versus individual ones.

Kathy Henry proposed an idea for a “Rainy Day Fund” as a source of additional monies for film productions if the film incentives cap has been reached.

The group discussed the challenge of proving that Oklahoma does have a good infrastructure.

Kathy Henry expressed the need to organize and harness former Oklahomans to be our ambassadors. Jill Simpson shared that filmmaker Tim Blake Nelson expressed interest in helping the cause of promoting the Oklahoma film industry.

NEW BUSINESS

Gray Frederickson shared details about the new HD facility at OKCCC. Mainly for educational purposed but may be made available to the industry. The group inquired about potential costs and requirements.

Simpson shared details about the OCU scoring facility and shared that she is working to get a board together to create a curriculum for a potential Scoring Program.

Simpson mentioned that Axiom has taken Oklahoma on as a project and wants to help take the state to the next level.

The group discussed Indion tax credit program and inquired about what the group stands to gain.

Margo Gray expressed concern about endorsing the Indion program due to not being consulted before a flyer was made and the lack of a detailed explanation of the way the program works.

Steve Ripley expressed that he was impressed with the creativity of Indion’s use of the film incentives and rural small business tax credits.

Hardy Watkins shared that he felt the flyer featuring the Indion tax program and the Oklahoma Film & Music Office film incentives was a positive way to grab people’s attention about the state’s incentive opportunities while sharing information on how a film production company is utilizing all the tax credits Oklahoma has to offer.

Jill Simpson stated that she firmly believed in her choice to partner with an external entity in a promotional campaign for the greater good of the entire state.

Margo Gray announced the upcoming Native Fall Music Festival.

Steve Ripley expressed his concern over the Centennial CD being available exclusively at 7-11 stores.

Hardy Watkins explained that the deal struck between the Centennial Commission and the 7-11 stores was a good opportunity for the Commission to be able to fund Centennial projects and stated that the CD could also be purchased on the internet.

The group discussed the transition to a new Lt. Governor, Jari Askins.

BREAK

Kathy Henry moved and Gray Frederickson seconded a motion to adjourn. The Commission adjourned at 3:25 p.m.