

**Cedar City Arts RAP Tax Advisory
Committee Action Meeting
July 25, 2018**

The Cedar City Arts RAP Tax Advisory Committee held its work meeting on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., in the City Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

PRESENT: Board Members: Joanne Brattain, Linda Benson, Donna Law, Becki Bronson, Randall Allen, Neal Smith, Terri Hartley, City Attorney Tyler Romeril, Executive Assistant Barbara Barrick. Paul Bittmenn.

OTHERS: Pat Hill, Ron Adams, Richard Bugg, Jewly Krause, Harold Shirley, Tom Jett, Suzanne Tegland, Julie Guin, Sara Penny, Rebekah Hughes.

CALL TO ORDER :

Tyler called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Tyler - We will go through our allocations and we have a quorum so we can vote. Joanne - Everyone knows how it works. This is where we arm wrestle. We are pretty close on our recommendations for everything which is good. Does anyone have anything they feel strongly about? Becki - I am new, but my thought process is: Cedar has a special love for the traditional arts and what I want to value is the traditional and unique to our community, such as the Master Singers and not the UFO Festival. I think we need to protect our brand and not be all things to all people. Neal - The City didn't come in with requests this year. Joanne - That would have come out of the 10%. Neal - I am worried that there are 14 organizations requesting funds, and so the USF and NSF may suffer. Joanne - I always look at the number of people served and the people per performance. I also took their income amounts and figured a percentage of what they are asking for. We have asked groups to find other sources of income and not depend entirely on the RAP Tax. Donna - We only do this once a year so I looked at the last 12 years we have done this. The USF is big part of our brand. Initially we used to give them \$110,000 per year. As other groups have come in we have whittled away at that amount. This year they've requested \$65,000 and they will get \$30,000 from TRT. Last year they got \$40,000 from TRT.

Randall - I don't think we should fund Anomaly. I don't feel they are an Arts group. If every group that had just had speakers on subjects at their gatherings, we would have so many applicants that we couldn't fund them all. Joanne - Tyler is the one that makes the decision if they are eligible. Tyler - I decide whether they can come before the Board. It is the Board's decision whether to fund. Randall - I don't think we want to set a precedent and fund an organization to bring in speakers to talk about non-artistic things like whether there are UFO's. Also, the USF is running a deficit, but they only get 1% of their revenue from the RAP Tax. They bring in so much money to our community, and they are struggling and we need to support them fully. I would give more than what they are asking. SUMA is also a world-class entity that teaches hordes of children about high class art. Other than that everyone is super worthy. Neal - The Haute Route is postponed till next year. Tyler - Yes. Randall - I don't think we should punish people for not having other income. But it is amazing that many groups depend on us for their entire income. We should reward those who are able to get lots of people to contribute as it's a community thing. Linda - I looked at what given previously and some may have to have our funding to keep afloat.

Joanne - In their presentation last week the USF has projected to clear their deficit this year. Donna - They had more surprise contributions. Randall - They've had lots of deficits over the last years. If they can get back in the black, they can bring some things back like the orchestra pit. Terri - Not from a City Council perspective but from my own, my concern is that no one from the City applied for restoration funds. They have many needs that weren't funded through the budget process. Could this Board meet again and discuss this? Tyler will check to see if the Board can reconvene.

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Terri - Improving the Heritage and Library would help everyone. My biggest concern is that we don't want organization to become even more reliant on RAP Tax funding. I am not a believer in UFOs but their festival brought in over 2000 people to Cedar City and they spent money in our hotels and restaurants. It also brings in the Native American tribes for the cultural side of it. Randall - That's a good point. Terri - I'm in agreement with everyone else but concerned about the restoration funds.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RAP TAX RECOMMENDATIONS

Joanne - We have the list of our recommendations and their requests on the screen. Let's take an average of what we've recommended and start from there. (See exhibit).

Donna - I think that the Jr. Ballet should be same as Children's Musical Theatre. Randall - I love CCJB but how many performances do they do? Neal - They talked about building a reputation and we told them to go to Business Development. They are ready to go to the next step.

Joanne - If we fund Jr. Ballet at \$11,500, we could bring Anomaly down to \$1,000. Donna - I want to double check and make sure we are not giving anyone less.

Joanne - One of the things we talked about last week was that it appears that the Livestock Festival is using funds to make capital improvements to the Diamond Z Arena. We want the person responsible for the Arena to request funds for improvement. Tyler says this would come from the Parks. It's great that the Livestock Festival is doing that, but maybe the Arena could use some help that way.

Joanne - Are you okay with these numbers? Sara - You are cutting InJubilo from last year. Joanne - Let's set In Jubilo and Master Singers at \$2500 each. Donna - We can give the remainder to the Arts Council.

Randall - So does everyone still want to give funds to the UFO Festival? Are you worried about setting a precedent? Donna - What is our obligation? Tyler - Cultural is defined in the ordinance as natural science, storytelling, musicals, motion pictures, plays. I view it as storytelling, but some may say it's science. Becki - I feel your pain, Randy, because I don't like the precedent and I don't like the message. Linda - Have we had any other applications from "edge organizations?" Tyler - This is the only one. Neal - NSF is down \$1,000 in our recommendations. We cut put it there if we don't fund Anomaly. Becki - The only reason I gave them funds was Terri's argument for bringing people into the City, but we need to be mindful about who we are. Randy - I am content-neutral. I don't want to say that I think UFO's are weird, because the Shakespeare Festival is weird to some people. But there are a lot of groups that have speakers about different phenomena. It's different than ballet. It's opening the door. Neal - We have a new Music Festival that will be coming in and SW Tech is talking about a culinary festival in October. So there are some other things coming in. There will be more and more pressure on the funds. Joanne - Some of them could fall under recreation. Donna - Anomaly will bring in people, but that is not the Board's charge. That is the purpose of the TRT funds. Anomaly would be eligible to go to the Tourism Bureau and apply for those funds. This is about servicing the community. Neal - The July Jamboree goes to the Tourism Bureau for funds.

Donna - I make a motion to move \$1000 from Anomaly to the NSF and fund it the same as last year. Second by Becki. Vote unanimous. Terri - Let's make sure we support everyone's culture. There are people in the community who enjoy a different culture. Randy - We do want to be egalitarian. Good point. But I don't think we should use culture as a catch all. Terri - Not just everyone with a speaker can come in. They have gone to the trouble to organize and get their non-profit status. Randy - I think we should protect these funds. I don't think UFO is a natural science. I think if you ask thousands of scientists they would say no. It is not storytelling. They are claiming to go up on the ship. It is a group of people that advocate for a certain mind-set. You could possibly have religions come in under the same precedent.

Joanne - So the final recommendations of the Board are on the screen.

Anomaly	0
Arts Council	8,526
Children's Musical Theatre	11,500
Junior Ballet	11,500
Music Arts	15,000
Livestock Festival	15,000
Community Theatre	11,500
In Jubilo	2,500
Master Singers	2,500
OSU	14,000
SUMA	13,000
Suzuki Strings	2,400
USF	62,000
Neil Simon	24,000

Motion to approve the above recommendations by Donna; Second by Neal. Vote unanimous to approve.

NEW BUSINESS

Donna - We've had to give groups less than they've requested. In the ordinance the RAP Tax funds are spent for 3 purposes and Parks and Recreation are combined. You can't separate them. Fewer groups come to Parks side and they get more funding. Can we move the funds and give 50 percent to the Arts and 50 percent to Park and Recreation? Neal agrees. Donna - What would be the process to change this? Tyler - This is in the ordinance. So to change it, we would have to change the ordinance and Council would have to approve it. The qualifications for applying for the the RAP Tax from the P & R are different than the Arts. if they were the same, there is not a single entity in the Arts that would qualify. On the P & R side, the funds go to total public use, such as garbage cans along the trail, or irrigation for the Golf Course. Fewer entities qualify for the P & R funds and that's why there are fewer applicants. Donna - How could we explore this? Tyler - Contact a member of the City Council and see if you have people who agree with you. Initially it was the Arts that wanted the RAP Tax and it failed. When P & R joined in the effort, it passed. I would get people from that side to recommend changes. Joanne - It feels like between the 10% set aside for restoration and the P & R funds that go to City entities the City doesn't have to fund these things in its budget. Is that reasonable? I know everyone is sensitive to raising taxes. Tyler -It is a delicate balance. Joanne - If the City is using RAP Tax funds to fund irrigation and trash cans shouldn't those be in the City budget? Tyler - The City tries to match the funds if they can. Donna - I'm not suggesting that we eliminate the P & R RAP Tax, just go half and half. We have 15 groups applying for the Arts funds here and none of them go away with what they need to be successful. Tyler - It's the same on the other side. There's just more funds on that side. Joanne - So we have the option to go to Council. Terri - I haven't looked at this in detail, but the P & R has twice as many requests as the RAP Tax can fund. Parks and Recreation serves many in the community and I think it would cause an uproar because so many use the parks. That is a loaded question and I think there would be resistance. (Tyler put up the request numbers for the P & R RAP Tax on the screen). Neal explained the Rotary's request for a water park. It's a major project. Tyler - For example, the Southern Utah Sports Academy was asking for floor refinishing, a shot clock, etc. The P & R RAP Tax can't subsidize these, according to the ordinance. But on the Arts side, the RAP Tax can fund costumes, etc. that not everyone can use.

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Pat Hill - They charge admission at the Golf Course and how many people play golf? Tyler - The same could be asked of USF. Randall - Where will the money go for the Golf Course? Ron - To the front 9 irrigation system which is 50 years old. Tyler - We funded the lights for the Fields at the Hills last year. Joanne - How much are green fees? Neal - They are very low. Randall - So they have double the money going to just these few people.

Harold - I support it all. But if you bring up changing the division you would be throwing a rock into wasps' nest. In 1997 we tried, and we found we needed all of the entities; the Arts and also Parks and Recreation we all needed each other's support to pass the RAP Tax on the ballot. It would hurt more than help if you try to change it and it might kill us completely.

Donna - I don't think soccer moms are benefitting from the front 9. Tyler - Last year the RAP Tax funded soccer nets. Tom - I've been watching for a lot of years and the RAP Tax was shot down and shot down until the parks come together with the arts. There's lots of anti-RAP people who would love do away with it. This is just as much politics as money. I don't golf or play soccer or go to the arts. This was contentious and the only way was to bring all groups together. It's better to get something than nothing.

Joanne - Let's end the formal part of the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Donna, second by Terri; vote unanimous to adjourn.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Barbara Barrick, Executive Assistant