



## Washington County Arts Council

### Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2013

*Present:* Kim Konikow, Paula Bell, Joe Allen, John Sato, Carol Golichnik; From Washington County: Jim Eardley, Denny Drake, Allen Gardner; Guest: Wally Bloss

*Absent:* JJ Abernathy

*Next meeting:* April 15, 2013 4-5:30pm

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### I. Discussion

**CARE project** — Kim introduced Wally Bloss from Cache County who was there to tell us about the RAPS (recreation, arts, parks and zoo) tax in Cache County. The online interactive map website was sent out prior to the meeting. Using the map, citizens are able to see where all RAPS money went and what was funded.

#### Summary of Wally presentation —

- Tax was passed in 2002 and had a 10 year sunset provision. Tax was passed again in 2012 with 84% approval.
- They raised \$2,000,000 between RAPS tax (.001%) and restaurant tax. Approximately 10% went off the top to the zoo and the balance was split between arts and recreation.
- A committee was set up to make recommendations for distribution of the funds. Each county council person put someone on the committee.
- Small cities got a lot of recreation money which they would not be able to get otherwise.
- County and cities also get some money for projects.
- Logan is largest city and usually submits 8-10 prioritized applications and gets 2-3 approved.
- Example of how Logan benefits is the Eccles theatre owned by city of Logan but gets \$90,000 from RAPS tax to use for promotion, upkeep, new facilities, programs, general operations, sets, costumes.
- Publicized where money went on water bills, website, etc.
- **IMPORTANT SELLING POINTS** are: Money stays local, decisions made locally, every place gets something, raises professionalism in arts and recreation

#### Commissioner Eardley wants to know how to get it passed and Wally and others make suggestions —

- Possibly set up PIC (public information committee with it's own tax ID) and launch PR campaign
- Send out postcards
- Put up yard signs
- Meet with park and recreation groups
- Present at Chamber for all cities
- Present at other groups, i.e. Rotary
- As many face to face presentations as possible
- Message on water bills?
- Use school district as distribution point?

## **II. Decisions**

We will proceed with drafting the language for the ballot. Need to add examples of investment in the future, heritage, operational expenses, professional development. Next step is to get together with commissioners, arts council board members and county attorney to start draft in April. The filing deadline is 3 months out.