

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
212 SW 9th STREET
DECEMBER 12, 2012

Jay Burk, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the New City Hall Auditorium. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Burk, Jay; Dismuke, Bob; Godlove, Jane; Hankins, Mary Ann; Harbison, Jean; Hushbeck, Tim; Safi, Anika; Smith, Marilyn; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Carter, Carol; Smith A.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Reports

A. Receive report from 4-D Landscaping

Burk stated Elkouri will not be with us today.

B. Receive report from Kim Shahan, Parks and Recreation Director

Shahan stated you authorized us to purchase 4 trees and at this time we have purchased 3. We were able to get the size of trees we wanted and they have been planted in the park. I have asked Billie Whipp to attend today to discuss her participation at the banquet. She is here to answer questions.

C. Treasurer Report

Burk asked did everyone have a change to look over the report. This report runs through the end of November. There is a lot of stuff for the banquet that is not on this report. I have received a check for \$18,000 in court fines. One month was \$11,000 so they must have been busy and I'm happy about that. We haven't received our quarterly hotel/motel tax so I have made contact with Finance and we should be receiving it within the next few days. That is not shown here and should be at this point. Playground in the Park still has \$12,000; Fire Pac roughly \$2500; Friend of the Trail \$2200/\$2300; Fishing For Food \$478; LETA YA \$1630; for a total bank balance of \$76,232.07.

Motion by Tennis, Second by Smith M, to accept the Treasurer's Report. **Aye:** Dismuke; Godlove; Hankins; Hushbeck; Safi; Smith M; Tennis; Burk; Harbison. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Receive report on LETA YA.

Burk stated they are meeting right now. Their goal is to get their brochure put together for their fund raising efforts for the 505 Tree Program. That is going to be their push for the next few months so they can do their first project in early spring. We will probably be hearing from them in January or February on what it will take to do Phase I. They have done some great stuff. They actually worked very hard at the banquet. You saw them working the raffle and they sold out of beads. They did everything they could especially when they found out it was going to be their money. That really motivated them to sell tickets. I saw a couple of guys just give them a \$100 and not ask for anything. That was really amazing if you ask me. Kids can always raise money much easier than adults. All they have to do is look right and you have no choice but to give them money.

E. Receive report on Banquet

Burk stated instead of going into this today I would like to have an After Action Committee meeting for those of us who worked during that time. We can all sit down like a sub-committee and work it out before the January meeting. Then we will give a full report on expenses and income. We will put it all together in a format we can all understand. I think what we will do is talk about the good, the bad and the ugly. I didn't see a whole lot of ugly but I did see some things I would like to see differently. I also have comments and ideas on making it better next year. From the responses I received from Cameron, those who won awards and from those you didn't win overall it was a wonderful event and everyone really enjoyed it. They thought it was a lot of fun. For those of you who were unable to attend we were out of there by 9:30.

Dismuke stated you must have not been the speaker.

Burk stated it wasn't me. No I thought it went really well and it moved along. I think people appreciated that too.

Shahan stated I would like to make a personal commit. Obviously my family was involved in this. I'm on Dr. Graybill's side of the family by marriage due to my sister. My sister was there with her husband Todd Graybill. She wanted to say thank you to all of you and an acknowledgement from the Graybill family. Being someone that has been away and came back she said that the City of Lawton needs to be awful proud to be doing something like this for those who has served in the community. She wanted me to personally say thank you and so I'm saying that from Terrill Graybill.

Burk stated I heard many comments throughout the night from those who had never been in City Hall or even knew that we existed that we were doing good stuff. The older gentleman who was the Commander for the Korean Memorial walked in and I believe it was his wife that was a school teacher here and she had not been in here since then. She was in tears walking around in the lobby. It is great to know that we are doing more. People are coming in and seeing what City Hall is about and what a wonderful venue to hold events. Billie we couldn't make it without you, your department, Shahan and all the people that worked so hard. I can't tell

you what all went on the last few days. I'm sure she has less hair today because she probably pulled it out. I'm sure there were many time she wanted to kill me. We really appreciate you and your people. There was never a "no I can't do that" it was "okay we will take care of it". It was amazing to me the amount of work they got done in such a short period of time. Basically the last week was a dash. Thank you so much. If you could be at the follow up meeting that would be perfect. That way we can sit down and actually do a report that I will bring back to LETA in another month or so. We might even do it in February I don't know. That gives us a few months to pull this together. I would like to have some good comments about the banquet and what you think since you did a line share of the work. What you think we need to do to make it more seamless. I think one thing we have to do is start a schedule of when we are going to get these things going. Start in September or October timeframe getting at least the beginning process going so that we are not stuck the last month killing ourselves. Again thank you so much and Shahan thank you and your department. I mean we shoved stuff on his department. The recreation side was making certificates and it was amazing. Charles takes care of this building and if you notice all the microphones work now. When we first got there they didn't work but now they always work. I don't know how he fixed them. It was amazing the stuff that we would say I need this and it was there. If I needed a light it was there. It means so much when you have that kind of support in events. I just couldn't have asked for more help than what they gave. Again thank you Shahan and Whipp for everything. We will definitely get together to go over this with the sub-committee that has worked on this. All of you here can come if you so choose. I'll not appoint anyone but if you were involved in any way please come. We will talk from the beginning to food to everything else. We will go from top to bottom. We did that last year and I thought it was helpful for all of us. Maybe we could do that on a Wednesday afternoon after Christmas. We will get that done.

2. New Business

A. Approve Minutes of October 10, 2012.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Harbison, to approve the minutes of October 10, 2012 as written. **Aye:** Dismuke; Godlove; Hankins; Harbison; Hushbeck; Safi; Smith M; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Discuss Art In Public Places and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I went to National League of Cities in Boston and came back with all this stuff so get prepared. I'm going to feed you a little at a time. I was able to go through and look at a lot of their art work and how they do their displays throughout their city. Absolutely amazing. I know that some of it is from the late 1800 and early 1900's so we are not going to compete but I love the ideas and how they started their plan for their Art Walk. We would have to go from City Hall down to 2nd Street over to Elmer Thomas and the McMahon Complex then spread throughout the community to where the other pieces are that we have notated. We have 17 pieces we have been able to establish and know where they are. We will meet in January with the Cameron folks and the Chamber about Art In Public Places. Tennis was also at National League of Cities. I have talked to you and we actually put it in our budget this year to do some sort of Art In Public Places purchase so we would have our first piece somewhere. NLC always

have these specials on artwork. Tennis and I stayed and talked to these guys for quite some time one evening. I had them give me the NLC price on the arbor boy and girl that we talked about putting in front of the playground in Elmer Thomas. That is one of our projects that we are going to be finishing within the next year. We have a bathroom and concession area that still needs to be built. It isn't totally complete but it is nearing completion once we do the park benches on the west side of the playground. The other project is the 38th Street Ballpark that we have been so involved in getting the fields redone. They are going to finish in the next month. Shahan's department will start working on fields 3, 4, 5 and 6. The landscaping is part of what we have gotten approved through City Council. The fields have been redone but they are going to redo the fencing and landscaping to finish the project LETA started on field 1. One of the things Tennis and I talked to them about is a bronze girl softball pitcher they have. She is beautiful. When we have the grand reopening of the ballpark in early summer we thought that maybe that would be something we could put there. Have an area made where it is up higher with landscaping around it. That would be a way to work with the McMahon Foundation for all they have done for us. The McMahon Foundation is obviously one of the biggest supporters in the City of Lawton.

Dismuke asked have we gotten completely away from the buffalo. We were big on that for a while and then all of a sudden...

Burk stated...I don't think we have gotten away from it I just haven't had anybody wanting to buy lately. I have had one request and that was at the Municipal Court. I think the Chamber's phone number is on the brochure if you want to purchase one. I have seen local businesses purchase them for display. Dr. Bellino and I had talked about making the buffalo our city mascot. We thought maybe that would be the next step. I think LETA needs to bring that forward and take it to Council to see if we can get it approved. I know we have the support of a lot of citizens who would like to see that happen. We have had no request for buffalos other than the Municipal Court. Judge Johnson wants to purchase one to put next to their building.

Dismuke stated a couple of years ago we talked about adding buffalo at I-44 and Cache Road. Have we forgotten about that project?

Burk stated I-44 is going to be redone. It will be torn out because the bridge has to be fixed. It has moved about a foot. The landscaping project we didn't think we would possibly get we have gotten. We have a meeting on January 11th with ODOT to discuss the actual design. I'll email all of you because I would love to have you there so we could all talk about it. This is a LETA project the Mayor has committed us to. We wrote the first grant application and now ODOT has come in and said we didn't need to use the grant money that they were going to pay for it. They will pay 100% of the expense. We would like to have a great entrance with a nice sign and fountain as you come in on what they call the tri-level. It will be totally landscaped. It is going to be a great entrance into the 2nd Street project and downtown. I think the buffalo needs to be put on hold even if we are considering doing it. Had we already done it we probably would have had to move them since they are going to redo the bridge. It is going to be a major project to get the bridge back the way it is suppose to be. It has moved a foot. If you get underneath it you can see it has moved a foot.

Tenis stated if you drive under it you can look up the bridge is here and the support is here.

Burk stated they have to do some major repair so we don't want to landscape. I'm glad we didn't get the grant a year or two ago to put it in and then tear it out. It is going to work out. They are going to take that on but they want our ideas of what we want. I'm going to take the original plan to the meeting. We already have a plan that we submitted with the grant application. It was a wonder plan that we approved as a board 2 or 3 years ago. In my opinion we don't change it because if we do we would have to go back and another person draw a whole new plan. One of the things the city has to do is to take full responsibility for the maintenance. That was part of the agreement. They only send mowers down here once a month to mow along the highways.

Dismuke asked what about Rogers Lane. We have talked and talked about it and it looks terrible. There are only a few plants. Before we take on anything else I would like to see us finish a couple of these things like Rogers Lane.

Burk stated I think our biggest problem on Rogers Lanes is getting things to live there. This is a major problem.

Dismuke stated didn't Elkouri give us the name of a plant that would live there. We asked him to give us an estimate months ago.

Burk stated yes. What I said and I think we all agreed upon was let's do a few and see how it goes. I don't want to put 50 plants out there and they all end up not making it. They are not going to give you a warranty next to a roadway. I have worked on the sprinkler myself and I'm telling you the wind from the semi's that go down that road is amazing. It is like a blow torch in your face. Those bushes are constantly being whipped by that and that has to be part of our problem. Part of them on one side almost looks like they have gotten burned like a wind burn. The leaves are brown. I asked Elkouri about this and he said let's plant 8 to 10 plants and see. We will plant around what we have. We don't want to take anything out. So I think that is doable. That is probably a couple thousand and we can have that done. You want mature bushes when you plant. I don't think that is off the chart on what we want to do. In our budget this year we allocated money for Art in Public Places. I think we allocated \$5000 or so in a small project category. I think that will fit perfectly in one of our small projects and honestly in the overall scheme of things other than what we have agreed to do at the Municipal Court we don't have another project in mind.

Dismuke asked are we complexly through with the south 11th Street project.

Burk stated yes.

Dismuke asked do we need to add anything. Maybe look at that again. It looks good but it looks to me like we need more to cover a blighted area. Dr. Bellino said the whole purpose of this was when people come in off the airplane and into Lawton. We had done a good job but I still think it might need more trees or something.

Burk stated I'm going to be honest. I'm really concerned about planting a whole lot of stuff in this drought that is along the roadways. It is so hard to keep them alive during normal conditions. Dr. Bellino and I talked about this in the last few days. We have lost stuff on Cache Road and 11th Street along the roadways. They seem to be taking a beating because of the heat and constant air movement. We don't see that around most of our municipal buildings. We are not losing all kinds of stuff there. I agree we can go back and look at a project to maybe plant more trees. The problem is it was a really tight area when we did the project. Hushbeck will remember how PSO wanted us to do the trees. The good thing about it is the trees on 11th Street look pretty good. They look like they have made it this year. If we get further into this drought we may have major issues and we have to start considering that. I'm hoping maybe we do a water reuse program to do the landscaping in our City but that is going to take millions of dollars. This is something to consider at this point instead of using our potable water. There are other things out there such as helping LETA YA get their project started. I think once that starts rolling it is going to be the big project within the City of Lawton. Those kids are going to really take off and gather most of their own money. For the schools that have worked done to them LPS is putting \$5000 in their budget towards landscaping. They has said they will use that money to help LETA YA so they have a buy in. Their plans are completely prepared for MacArthur High School and I have told them their next job is to go raise the money. They have had people ask about levels of donation. I know that Cameron told them on Thursday night they wanted to be a part of their 505 Project. I think we have a community buy in for their project. So that is another commitment we have out there. The East Side Dog Park will probably not happen this year. That is just the reality of it. I think the Humane Society has changed their focus to a new location. I don't want to take it off the books yet because that is a project we talked about and allocated \$5000 for. I would like to keep it there just for safety. When they are ready we will be ready. I believe it will be another year or so before they are ready for that project. So in my mind we don't have any major projects out there other than finishing up a couple of things we have started. I don't know how much Shahan has set aside for landscaping for 38th Street so that is something we need to check into.

Dismuke asked can we get the trees donated like we did in the park.

Burk stated it has to be around a playground.

Dismuke asked is that not.

Burk stated no. It has to be playground equipment. It is called Shade Trees Over Playgrounds. We could do it at another playground in Lawton or do another project ourselves. We would have to provide the sprinkler system and that sort of thing. They sent us wonderful trees and like Shahan said we only lost 4 out of the 70 trees we received. That is pretty good. The big theatrical lighting is about to go in. This is the same lighting they use at Disney Land. I think they spent \$10,000 on lighting for the park. It had different colors that come in and out. In the evening you will be able to see that. It will be lit all throughout the evening. They are on cells so they will go on and off at specific times. It is going to be beautiful. That will be something else you see from the highway once they get that installed. We hope to have it installed before the holidays are over. We did the project for the electrical but we didn't have the

poles. Now the poles are all painted green and they look really nice. They had 2 of them up the other day with no lights. Max Sasseen is working on getting the lights installed and the City is putting up the poles. Back to Arts in Public Places. We have a couple of projects that I think are worthy. It is a guy and his son that does these pieces. They have a large staff and they do individual custom pieces and some pieces are limited edition. They only make so many of a specific piece. Both these pieces are limited edition pieces. They are all signed and numbered as you buy them. The ones we are going to get haven't even been cast yet. The type of bronze they use needs no cleaning. They are made for the outdoors and are beautiful. The one of the arbor girl and boy would fit perfectly in front of the arbor we have now in the playground. It is exactly the right size. It is 9'tall and 9' wide. It would fit perfectly. It anchors at the bottom. You tell the type of anchor you want and Shahan said they wanted the ones that are hidden. They ship it here, unload it, take it to your exact location and all you have to do is anchor it down. The softball girl is exactly the same. Most of you have seen the arbor boy and girl but the softball girl is a fast pitch softball girl. She is beautiful. I was stunned because this was the first time I had seen her. I have seen a whole bunch of other pieces they have and they have a large amount of wonderful pieces. The City of Houston just did a custom one and it was huge. It is a guy with angle wings that spread 30' carrying a wounded soldier. He had a 6" clearance to get under the bypasses from New York City to Houston. The Mayor purchased him for the city to put in their wounded soldier project. This is the kind of quality stuff these people put out. It is not some cheap stuff. The boy/girl arbor is regular \$13,000 and because of the show it was on special for \$7,797. The fast pitch softball girl is regular \$9000 and she is on sale for \$5400. These are huge discounts but they are only good for 30 days. I told him he had to give us time to get back and have a meeting to see if we could do something like this for this price.

Tenis stated they are both beautiful and it is hard to choose.

Burk asked what do we do next. I know we set aside money for this. If we decided we wanted both I would like for it to be a grand opening type thing for the 38th Street Ballpark and have the McMahon Foundation there to accept it for part of what they do.

Dismuke asked do we have the money for both of them.

Burk stated we set aside \$20,000 in the budget this year for Art In Public Places. I have adjusted our budget because we knew we had a little bit of a hit coming from hotel/motel money. I did adjust that down. I met with Endicott last week and we are going to lose around \$3500 to \$4000 from our hotel/motel money. I have already deducted that out and I went down through and made a few adjustments because some of the stuff that we have done hasn't been as expensive as we thought. We put the numbers a little higher than we thought on some of our projects so we are in pretty good shape to date with our funds.

Motion by Dismuke; **Second** by Godlove, to purchase Arbor Boy and Girl to be placed at the at the Playground in the Park and the fast pitch softball girl to be placed at 38th Street Ball Park. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Harbison; Hushbeck; Safi; Smith M; Tennis; Burk; Dismuke. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Approve Yearly Meeting Notice.

Motion by Dismuke, **Second** by Hankins, to approve the yearly meeting notice as written. **Aye:** Hankins; Harbison; Hushbeck; Safi; Smith M; Tennis; Burk; Dismuke; Godlove. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

3. Old Business

A. Discuss painting and landscaping the Municipal Court Building and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I would like to table this item. We are still getting cost estimates. I met with Judge Johnson and Richard Rogalski after the last meeting about this project. The only thing that can't be painted is the brick. There is stuff that has to be done to the building first. There are cracks that need to be re-grouted and resealed. The flowerbed leaks into the building so they are going to address all that and come back to us with some true hard figures in January. If we could I would like to table it until the next meeting.

Smith M asked did you say he wants a buffalo down there.

Burk stated yes.

Smith M asked can we do landscaping without any grass so that it is easier to maintain.

Burk stated yes. I told him that we wanted him to be a big part of what goes around the building. He is 100% behind some buffalo, rock and other things.

Dismuke asked why are we involved in the painting.

Burk stated well it is enhancement. If we wait for the City to do it we might have it done in 2020. I'm just being honest with you. There is no money in the maintenance budget for them to paint the building. The building is stucco. You could go ahead and do the landscaping but the building is still ugly. To me maybe we do the painting first. Here is the thing if you remember the agreement I made with Judge Johnson. For us to get the \$4.50 of every \$5.00 court fine we were to landscape, improve the entrance and improve the front of his building. Otherwise it was going to be a 50/50 split. If you remember we would have cut our funds in half. He has been very patient. We have been receiving the funds for at least 2 or 3 years now. He is willing to take his .50¢ that he has been accumulating to help with the project. He doesn't have any money for the project and his .50¢ won't cover it. When he heard we were going to do this he was tickled pink. I met with Rogalski and the only thing we cannot do is paint the brick and the landscaping we take to a landscape committee.

Smith M asked why can't you paint the brick.

Burk stated the building is in the Urban Renewal Overlay and there are certain requirements on the brick color. We will take the landscape to the City for their approval. If we

wanted to paint the brick then we would have to go before Urban Renewal and ask for their permission but I don't want to paint the brick. It looks nice and I don't see a problem with it.

Tenis stated when you need to repaint you have to sandblast it and start from scratch. It is more of a headache than it is really worth.

Burk stated the city is going to be responsible for getting the water to the landscaping because there is no water at this time on the outside of the building. They water with soaker hoses. Part of our job would be to put the sprinkler and landscape in. They are doing a great job across the street at the YMCA so it is perfect timing to spruce up that area. First Baptist has done a good job of redoing their landscaping along that one side. They are cleaning up and it looks much different than it has in the past. They have removed all the old cars that were sitting there. So if we could I would like to table this until the next meeting.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Harbison, to table this item until the next meeting. **Aye:** Safi; Smith M; Tennis; Burk; Dismuke; Godlove; Harbison; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Discuss hiring a new website designer and take action if necessary

Burk stated that has been done as we agreed at the last meeting. I'm in the process of getting them the information they need. I have to go online and fill out these forms and last week was a little tough so hopefully I'll have a moment this weekend. I will go on and hopefully get the stuff submitted and then we will get to work on our website design. What I would like to do once they send us the mockup is to get the committee to sit down and go over it. Then we will bring a final proposal back to the Board to approve. I'm thinking by February March we will have the website up and running. We will be able to allow people to submit nominees for the Eye Candy Awards and purchase LETA YA t-shirts. We may want to start our own t-shirt/sweatshirt they could order from us online. They do it at the KOB and it has been successful for them. It will be an online store so they will actually pay online. Before next year we will have it so they can actually purchase their tickets for the banquet on line just like they do at the KOB. This is the exact same company that the KOB uses. Going back the KOB was ecstatic over being able to see what we were doing compared to what they do. I told them that a week before the event we had 185 to 190 RSVP's and we were scared that we would have 30 or 50 seats left with empty tables at the back of the room. I had already told Shahan I wanted him to remove any empty table so nobody would know. As it turned out we didn't have any empty tables. We ended up with a couple of seats left and that was because we had saved those in case we had forgotten someone. There was so much confusion but all the tables were rented. What gets me is people paying and not coming. They will pay \$300 to \$800 for nine people to come and then they don't show up. I don't know but maybe it is just for a donation. It didn't cost us anything but I hate to see empty seats when we had people at the very end really needing seats. Goodyear wanted seats for 5 the day before and we really had to figure out a place for 5 because we showed we were full.

Smith stated you could always take our seats. I don't mind if we fill in at other tables. If you need our seat just take them.

Burk stated never.

Dismuke asked what does it cost for the website.

Burk stated we voted at our last meeting and I believe half was \$1700. I want to say it was \$3000 something and to add the page where you can purchase online was another \$650. The total amount was less than \$10,000. I believe \$5000 was the total with it produced and ready to go. It was a great deal compared to the crap we have been going through. I wanted to tell you that the KOB said their MC has wanted to step down and she stated if he does I was the first person they were calling. I told her she was crazy. Hushbeck had to tell me to breath or I was going to pass out. It turned out really well. I think people had a good time. It went faster than before and over all the food preparation was good. Not exactly how I wanted it to look on the plate because presentation is half but I thought the food was good. There were mess ups such as we didn't get bread at our table and were suppose to. I thought we did a great job with everybody working together and pulling together from getting the decorations done to sticking Safi in the hallway to hand out awards. Everyone did a great job. Thanks to Tennis for ordering the awards and to everyone for helping me when I said I needed help. You all would jump instantly and that means a lot to me and to LETA. It proved that we can do it and that we can pull it off. There is nothing to big we can't handle. I know I was scared but we did it.

Hankins asked will we get feedback on auction items so we will know where to go and not to go next year.

Burk stated absolutely. We will make a list of what we got for each item. Whipp has all that information so we will know exactly. I want to know the difference between what they gave and its value. It isn't worth stressing out over getting that item if it is something that doesn't sell. I saw items that had basically nothing on them and then there was other that went like gang busters. I would see people go back and write another number on some of the dinners. That is the kind of stuff we need.

Hankins stated if they were good items we can begin to groom those donors early for next year if they are items we really want to pursue.

Godlove stated I wrote personal thank you notes to the people that I got donations from. I think it would be good for everyone to write a personal thank you to those you received donations from.

Burk stated I agree. I'll draft a letter for our corporate donors. This year was amazing getting \$13,500 in corporate sponsors. We went from \$4000 last year to \$13,500. What a huge jump. Also I thought the auction went well up top but I was not pleased with the band.

Hankins stated that is a very attractive area.

Burk stated it is. I had some discussion with the band that wasn't real kind. They were suppose to play an hour and 45 minutes. I forgot what we paid them but it aggravated me that

they stopped half way through to take a break. I don't think you need a break if you are only playing for an hour and 45 minutes. We needed the music and all of a sudden it was just dead. I was wondering where the music went and they were all upstairs drinking and having a party. We also gave them a free dinner. That is one of those thing we need to talk about. I thought the room was beautiful and it gave people the chance to mingle. I didn't believe the items were crowded and I think if you get good quality items 30 or 35 items is plenty. I don't remember how many items we had but I do remember at one point we had 29. I know we reached our goal dollar wise. We were hoping for \$3000 and we raised a little over \$3100. I'm not sure it is the number. I believe it is the quality of items. It needs to be things that will sell. We will have a full breakdown of everything. Overall I thought things went well and we didn't have any major problems. It seemed like people enjoyed being up there and they enjoyed going down. I did hear a few complaints that the bar was closed to soon. It closed as soon as we went to the banquet hall but you know there is always going to be something. We can't please everyone.

Hushbeck stated the only other complaint that I heard was the reception was too long. It probably should have been an hour instead of an hour and a half. I was downstairs so it might have been a different perception upstairs. Those downstairs listening to music thought it was a little long.

Burk stated that might be something we have to discuss. The line share of people showed up around 6:15. Did you notice the rush of people at that time? It seemed like the room got full around 6:00. It was packed with people. I kept thinking there weren't many people upstairs and I would go downstairs and there wasn't many there either.

Hushbeck stated those are the ones that go to a lot of these receptions and just want to come for the banquet.

Burk stated right. They want to come for drinks. You saw a lot of them running up for a drink at the very last second. It was kind of funny because there was a rush on the bar. The bartender at the beer bar stated he didn't sell a bottle of beer until the last 10 or 15 minutes. I thought it was better this year with a cash bar. Those that wanted to drink did and those that didn't were fine also. Overall I really thought it turned out well. I'm going to be honest with you. I'm going to vote on keeping it here only for the fact that I think it is a good thing to be sold out. I think it is a good thing to say "I'm sorry we only have 2 seats left". If it gets to a point we have 100 people on a waiting list wanting to get into the door then we have a concern. You can't get this venue anywhere else and people love being in the banquet area. They love the feel of that room and the fact it is a city event I think people enjoy that. I think they enjoy being in City Hall. Again thanks to all of you for everything. I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Enjoy your Christmas parties, candy or whatever it is you like. I think we are through for another year.

Smith M asked when is the follow up retreat.

Burk stated I forgot about that. January...

Safi stated as a side note Ms. Addie and I took all the awards that weren't given out that night to each destination.

Burk stated great. We took one to Los Tres today. The retreat is going to be on January 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Smith M stated and it is at my house.

Burk stated yes. Thank you so much.

Safi asked are we doing the by-laws and things like that.

Burk stated 9:00 a.m. till around 1:00 p.m. Once we have lunch we will finish up. Our LETA meeting is just before that date and some of us had things we had to accomplish before the retreat. We probably need to remind ourselves of those things. Everybody had notes on what they were suppose to do. I'll email that out to everyone.

Godlove stated I think we all have a copy of it. I have one. I think it was sent to all of us.

Burk stated I think so but if you need a copy contact me or Ezell and we will send you another one. If you had something that you were suppose to finish it is listed on the email. Our next meeting is the 9th of January so that gives us about a week and a half before the event. Okay anything else.

4. Adjournment

Motion by Godlove; **Second** by Harbison, to adjourn. **Aye:** Safi; Smith M; Tennis; Burk; Dismuke; Godlove; Harbison; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**