

AGENDA
Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors
Community Engagement Committee
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM
Irving Convention Center
500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, Texas 75039
First Floor Conference Room

NOTE: A possible quorum of the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors and City Council may be present at this committee meeting.

1. Citizen Comments on Items Listed on the Agenda
2. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes
 - a. July 9, 2024
 - b. Special Meeting – August 12, 2024
3. High Spirited Citizen Nominations - Recommendations
4. Strategic Plan – Committee Updates
 - a. Irving Heritage Society Fish Fry – Friday, May 9
 - b. High Spirited Citizen Luncheon – Friday, November 14
 - c. City Holiday Parade – Saturday, December 6
5. City Council Report
6. Committee Chair Report and Staff Comments
7. Next Meeting – July 22

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this notice of meeting was posted on the kiosk at City Hall of the City of Irving, Texas, a place readily accessible to the general public at all times, and said notice was posted by the following date and time:

_____ at _____ and remained so posted at least 72 hours before said meeting convened.

Deputy Clerk, City Secretary's Office

This meeting can be adjourned and reconvened, if necessary, the following regular business day.

Any item on this posted agenda could be discussed in executive session as long as it is within one of the permitted categories under sections 551.071 through 551.076 and section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code.

A member of the public may address the governing body regarding an item on the agenda either before or during the body's consideration of the item, upon being recognized by the presiding officer or the consent of the body.

This facility is physically accessible and parking spaces for the disabled are available. Accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for accommodations must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting. Contact the City Secretary's Office at 972-721-2493 or Relay Texas at 7-1-1 or 1-800-735-2988.

MINUTES – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Those in attendance were Committee Chair Colvin Gibson, Board Chair Richard Stewart, Jr., Yasir Arafat, David Cole, and Cambria Jones, – Committee members; Carol Boyer, Anabel Espinoza, Maura Gast, Diana Pfaff, and Susan Rose – ICVB staff.

Committee Chair Colvin Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There were no citizen comments.

Gibson asked for a motion to approve the Community Engagement Committee meeting minutes of April 16, 2024. On a motion from Board Chair Richard Stewart, Jr., and a second from Board member David Cole, the motion was unanimously approved.

STRATEGIC PLAN – COMMITTEE UPDATES

HIGH SPIRITED CITIZEN PROGRAM

Nominations and Recommendations

Gibson noted there were additional nominations submitted after the packet was posted on the Board portal. A complete packet of nomination forms and information was distributed to the Committee.

- Dixie Morton Caraway – The nomination form submitted by Phyllis Franklin was reviewed by the Committee. It was noted Dixie is part of the original Bear Creek Sam Morton family, who are phenomenal contributors to the community. On a motion from Board Committee member David Cole and a second from Board Chair Richard Stewart, Jr., this nomination was unanimously accepted.
- Karen Cooperstein – The nomination form submitted by Debbi Haacke was reviewed. On a motion from Cole, and a second from Committee Vice Chair Yasir Arafat, this nomination was unanimously accepted.
- Chuck Cooperstein – This nomination form submitted by Diana Pfaff was reviewed. On a motion from Cole, and a second from Committee Vice Chair Yasir Arafat, this nomination was unanimously accepted.
- Michael Corty – The nomination form submitted by Sgt. Harvey Rubealcaba and David Cole was reviewed. His dedication with students, especially during COVID was discussed and the extra efforts were considered volunteerism. On a motion from Cole, and a second from Stewart, this nomination was unanimously accepted.
- Juan Carlos Gonzalez – The nomination form submitted by Sam Reed was reviewed. Gast added Gonzalez received the Townsell Award given at an ICVB Annual Meeting for bringing the National Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Conference to Irving. On a motion from Cole, and a second from Arafat, this nomination was unanimously accepted.
- Nancy Payne – The nomination form submitted by Debbi Haacke was reviewed. Discussion was held on her passion for the environment in the community and it was noted she is an unsung hero. On a motion from Cole and a second from Stewart, this nomination was unanimously accepted.
- Delia Watley – The nomination form submitted by Annette French was reviewed. On a motion from Cole, and a second from Arafat, this nomination was unanimously accepted.

Previous and Pending Nominations:

- Saeed Purcell – The nomination form submitted by Yasir Arafat was reviewed again by the Committee. Additional information was previously requested to be able to review his volunteer work versus his employment responsibilities. Assistant Executive Director Marketing and Communications Diana Pfaff gave the Committee additional information on Purcell's volunteer activities. Gast also noted that Purcell has presented to the City's Diversity Inclusion Committee program. Arafat added he has worked with Purcell with a Food Bank program. Purcell organizes the volunteers and places the food order for distribution. The Committee agreed anything that goes above and beyond serving the community outside his occupation, i.e., the food bank program is 100% a volunteer activity. The Committee further discussed relevance of the length of time a nominee has been an Irving resident and noted there is nothing that references time in Irving and/or age as a qualifier for the High Spirited Citizen award.

On a motion from Cole, and a second from Stewart, the Purcell nomination was unanimously accepted.

- Pastor Robert D. Robinson – This nomination was previously presented to the Committee. Pfaff reviewed additional volunteer information that was collected. The nomination was submitted by Pontress Tousant. It was agreed to table this nomination for further information.

ACTION ITEM: Pfaff to verify if Robinson is presently residing in Irving and when his church moved to Arlington, Texas.

The Committee agreed to close the nomination process for 2024 and will note on the website nominations are closed and will reopen in January 2025.

Discussion was held on the sensitivity of candidate nominations who are not well known in the community and unsung heroes that can present sensitive situations. Cole noted it is a celebration of the diversity in Irving and the great volunteers that serve the community. Stewart stated nominations are processed at the Committee level, and suggested if there is still a concern, he should be the person to address that conversation. Gibson suggested once the Board takes action for approval, the forms and additional data can be presented with all the data received and sent to City Council for their weekly packets. The High Spirited Luncheon is scheduled for October 25 at the Irving Convention Center.

ACTION ITEM: Gast to poll the Committee for an agreeable date in August (before the August Executive Committee and Board meeting) to review the pending nomination and gather any feedback or additional questions on individual nominations.

IRVING SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

- This year's ICFB scholarship recipient, Elizabeth Philips is going to Colorado State in the Hospitality program. Gast received a handwritten Thank You note from Philips and shared with the Committee.
- The *Breakfast of the Stars* event is an excellent program and a tremendous and valued partner.

COMMITTEE ACTIVATION

- Heritage Society Fish Fry – May 10 was a good first effort for ICVB presence at the event. Cole added the event coordinator, Gary Westerman, was very appreciative of the ICVB support. Gibson noted it was a good crowd and ticket sales were high this year, and it will be a good event to continue to support for the Board.
- City Holiday Parade – The Committee discussed if the ICVB presence with the horse-drawn carriage is enough and if the audience is aware. It was suggested to have a walking banner before the horse-drawn carriage for a more pronounced ICVB awareness. An LED sign was also suggested. Thoughts were shared on the possibility of doing more in the parade; i.e, giving out candy or small toys. It was noted there were candy zones and non-candy zones during the July 4 parade. The Committee will discuss this possibility further.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

There is no City Council update at this time.

COMMITTEE CHAIR AND STAFF COMMENTS

- In reference to the item of expanding the Committee to volunteers and non-ICVB Board members, Gibson noted the item has been tabled several times. After the City's new guidelines for new Board members in terms of Conflict of Interest and Training, it was concluded not pursue this item any further.
- Gast reported she and City of Irving Economic Development Manager Brian Hayward will host the Irving 360 Academy group on October 15 as part of the Economic Development night for the program.

The next regular Community Engagement Committee meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2024. Gibson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Allen Gast, FCDME
Executive Director

MINUTES – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING

IRVING CONVENTION CENTER

Monday, August 12, 2024

Those in attendance were Committee Chair Colvin Gibson, Board Chair Richard Stewart, Jr., Yasir Arafat, and Cambria Jones – Committee members; David Cole – Board of Directors; Anabel Espinoza, Maura Gast, Brenda Lopez, Diana Pfaff, Susan Rose, Matt Tungett, and Monty White – ICVB staff.

Committee Chair Colvin Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There were no citizen comments.

STRATEGIC PLAN – COMMITTEE UPDATES

HIGH SPIRITED CITIZEN PROGRAM

Nominations and Recommendations

- Pastor Robert D. Robinson – nomination form was reviewed by the Committee. Sr. Director of Marketing & Communications Monty White gave an overview of the affiliations and accomplishments provided by the nominator. Robinson is Pastor of New Beginning Worship Center. He is an active member of Parent-Teacher Organizations in the Irving Independent School District. Robinson is also a member of the Irving/Carrollton NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).
- Assistant Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Diana Pfaff verified that Robinson did not get paid for any of his volunteer work that has been submitted for the nomination.
- Executive Director Maura Gast verified with Irving/Carrollton NAACP president (and former High Spirited Citizen) Tony Grimes that Robinson resides in Irving. Gast also noted the church did begin in Irving, but it has relocated to Arlington.
- Gibson verified Robinson has been an Irving resident for approximately 25 years. Gibson also confirmed Robinson attends the Irving NAACP meetings routinely and believes Robinson was affiliated with another church in Irving.

Gibson asked for a motion to recommend nomination to the Board of Directors. On a motion from Committee member David Cole, and a second from Committee member Yasir Arafat, the motion unanimously was approved.

Recommendation will be added to the August 26 Board of Directors meeting agenda and the nomination form will be included in the Board packet.

Board Chair Richard Stewart, Jr. suggested that future nominations requiring additional information be sent back to nominator to complete. Cole agreed and added the person submitting a nomination should be asked to research instead of it falling on the Committee members and staff.

Arafat asked if documents could be uploaded online with the nomination form. White confirmed documents can be attached to the form online. Colvin reiterated the form may be submitted online or as a paper copy for anyone that finds it difficult to submit online.

ACTION ITEM: White will update the High-Spirited Citizen nomination application form and add language as to what information needs to be included when submitted.

With no further discussion, Gibson adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Allen Gast, FCDME
Executive Director

**CITY OF IRVING/IRVING CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU HIGH SPIRITED CITIZEN AWARD
E BIOGRAPHY**

GARY L. SCHEPF

3137 Kathy Lane
Irving, Texas 75060-3414
Home: 972.790.3128
Cell: 972.523.8807
Email: schef2010@gmail.com

Zip: _____
Email: _____

Please list nominee's civic affiliations in Irving. In addition, list major **volunteer** accomplishments within these affiliations and date(s) of activity. Do not include any paid positions as the award recognizes an individual's volunteer accomplishments.

CIVIC AFFILIATION	VOLUNTEER ACCOMPLISHMENTS	DATE(S)
	attached Lm	

Please list nominee's honors and awards as a volunteer:

•
• attached Lm
•
•
•

Additional information:

- Gary is a very active & devoted for our schools in the past along
- with the city before he retired 1975-2018 from ISD
- He chooses leadership positions and performs in excellent leadership
- and dependable service A career in education now a life time

Number of years nominee has resided in Irving: Grad Nimitz 1993 59 years Irving of service!

Nominated by: Lee Mosty Date: Aug 12, 2024

Email: leea.mosty@gmail.com Phone: 972 986 5996

Return to: Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau
c/o Diana Pfaff
500 W. Las Colinas Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039
dpfaff@irvingtexas.com C 817 312 8046

1/2

Volunteer for Gary Schepf ONLY Irving Many more serving our state putting Irving on the map!

Civic Affiliations / Accomplishments/Date

Irving Retired School personnel Associations (IRSPA) 2 nd VP-2018-2020; President 2020-2022 (Gary had the tough task of making our meetings happen Covid, along with help with Zoom)

Association of Texas Professional Educators ATPE Local President and Secretary/ missing dates

City of Irving - Irving Youth Council/ Chairman & Vice Chairman 1999-2021-

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons/Freemasonry Royal Arch Mason of Irving Chapter, Royal & Select Masters;, Irving Council Trice Illustrious Master Dates-1976-1992; Order of Eastern Star Royal and Selected Masters/ 1979-1983;

Irving Heritage Society/ Second Vice President(Programs – (Gary went to ALL , but one was gone! Our city has a huge amount, the historical markers, took photos and brought them to us in a power point presentation) Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors, chairman of Valentine's tea, 2007/ 2008 (many moving parts of the annual tea)

Irving Silvertones/ President, Treasurer, current member / 2015 2024

Irving Independent School District /District Improvement Committee , Chair 2019-2020; Vice Chair 2018-2019 (This is a daunting task that has a huge impact on the school's future.)

City of Irving -New Tomorrows (Shelter for Abused/Battered Women) / Secretary 1998-1999

Order of DeMolay / Master Councilor Irving Chapter/1972; Advisor for Chapter 1978-1979; Ritual Advisor 1977-1978

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons Order of Eastern Star Royal and Selected / 1979-1983; Royal and Selected Master

Car Shows in/ including High School Home Coming Parades, City Parades at Christmas and July 4th (He loved to dress up for the festive occasions) fund raisers for many civic groups totaling 18 appearances. 1999-2024

City of Irving / Youth Council, schools Liaison Committees, Youth Summit Committee. Programs Committee, Membership& Newsletter for this group , Mayor' Select For Youth Issues committee. Various dates 1999- 2022

Irving Sister Cities/ Board of Directors, Celebration Coordinator, Liaison for Espoo Finland Com., Teacher exchange program with Merton England. / Various years 1993-2008

Entertainment Series of Irving/ member and board of / 2007

Oakview Baptist Church/ tenor in Adult choir 1982-2024; Sunday School teacher of Single adults, Singles Committee Chairman, Social Chairman for singles department.

Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce / Film Irving / 2011-2012; Future Leaders of Irving 2010-2016; Technology Leadership Council 2009-2010; then again 2015...

Volunteer for Gary Sheff

2/2

As you can well see, Gary has chosen take on various leadership positions in our community organizations. With his computer expertise back ground, he brought these meetings to an advanced and organized level of excellence.

Respectively, Submitted by Lee Mosty

Scheff

Gary ~~Shepf~~ honors and Awards as a volunteer ONLY in Irving

Irving Heritage Society-Valentine's Tea Sweetheart 2023

Irving Eagles Alumni Chapter Life Award

Order of DeMolay International -Life Member 1984, Degree of Chevalier 1975, Cross of Honor 1980 (6 others not listed)

City of Irving Community Service Award 2005

City Of Irving -IPAR Super Star 2003

Car Shows-Irving Police & Fire Blue Christmas - top 10 Award 2022

First United Methodist- class award of the 70's 2005

Rocking ' 50's Irving Heritage District- Best of Show & 1st Place Stock 70's Car 2005

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons -,Thrice Illustrious Master 1980-1981 also Most Excellent High Priest 1980-1981