



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

Stonecrest Film and Entertainment Commission

Councilman Rob Turner – Chairman
William Smith, Economic Director
Patreece Dechabert – District 1
Verda Watson – Vice Chairman, District 2
Victoria Turner – District 3
Stacy Thibodeaux – District 4
Mack Calhoun – District 5
Monty Ross – Advisory Member

Mallory Minor – Advisory Member
Cassandra Wilson – Secretary
Sandra Lewis-Glass – Advisory Member
Leslie Green – Advisory Member
Demetrice Williams – Advisory Member
Chet Brewster – Advisory Member
Angel Forte – Advisory Member
Gazza Forte – Advisory Member

STONECREST FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Stonecrest City Hall

Citizen Access: [Stonecrest YouTube Live Channel](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Rob Turner, Chairman

The meeting began at 6:07pm.

II. ROLL CALL: Rob Turner, Chairman

There was a quorum, with the following members not present: Patreece Dechabert, Verda Watson, Stacy Thibodeaux, Monty Ross, Cassandra Wilson, Sandra Lewis-Glass, Demetrius Williams, and Chet Brewster.

III. INVOCATION: Rob Turner, Chairman

IV. APPROVE AGENDA

- A. Rob Turner suggested adding the following to the agenda under New Business: update on Sound Diplomacy by William Smith and Introduction of Guest Presenter by Cassandra Wilson.

Motion - made to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Patreece Dechabert.
Motion approved unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Sound Diplomacy Update, William Smith

Director Williams advised that Kate, from Diplomacy, was attending virtually and

prepared to give a presentation on an economic development assessment as well as some findings giving a new direction on how to address art in the city.

There was a presentation by Kate Durio, head of Global Projects for Sound Diplomacy, the consulting firm that's been working in Dekalb County and has completed a strategy for film, music, and digital entertainment. Mrs. Durio is presenting initial findings and interim reporting information on the recommendation to explore an Arts Council Chair in Stonecrest. The State Arts Council stated that any art focused non-profit can be eligible to receive funding but will have to compete to be granted. The grant recipient would have to be nonprofit and have an art focus. Information shared is from Alan with the Georgia Arts Council. There was additional information shared by Mrs. Durio, in regard to the classification of Arts as well as the Economic Impact Assessment Key Findings analysis results. It was made clear this is from the assessment and there is no final analysis at this time. It still shows where the industries are heading and shows the room for growth. Durio reminded the committee that there is a survey up and support is needed in getting the survey out to the public. The survey provides personalized data about the user experience between all different sectors.

B. Introduction of Guest Speaker, Cassandra Wilson

Cassandra Wilson introduced Renee Atkins with Southern Souls who would like to discuss having Stonecrest sponsor a conference. There will be a series of mixers that Stonecrest will be a part of and the event will be held by the airport. The City of Stonecrest will have a room in which they can do whatever they choose. Southern Souls would also like to have another conference in December that Stonecrest can be a part of, distributing toys and clothing to the less fortunate. The rollout is planned for March 1st.

Cassandra Wilson stated the sponsorship was \$3000. There will be four mixers and the \$3000 will cover all four and also includes the room at the hotel. Stonecrest will also have 20 passes for Seniors in Highschool that has interest in Mass Media.

It was stated Atkins needs a logo to use for the Film Commission. 482 people have already registered and the capacity is 1500.

Chair Turner asked the committee if there were any objections to Smith moving forward with funding this conference with the \$3000. There was none and it was approved.

E. Event updates/ Revised budgets

Cassandra Wilson stated the next event is the Richard Williams Documentary and the committee is invited to participate in a film festival on the 28th which Wilson would like to move to the 4th of March. Moving to the 4th of March would give the committee more time to advertise. J Fly mentioned he is on tour in March and would like to move the event to the 4th of July. The city has something planned for that day, so Director Smith will speak with Parks and Rec about collaborating with the Film Committee.

It was stated the Committee cannot do anything with the God Fundraiser as they

are not a non-profit. The Jazz Concert will be taken out and they will move the agenda to DJs in the Park. The Juneteenth Celebration will be taken out because the city is already doing something. The Actor and Casting All Call will be the same locations, the producer workshop will be the same and the December Holiday Meet and Greet will continue and be partnered with Renee Atkins as well as the Non-Profit in Stonecrest that will be giving away 5000 toys.

Rob Turner asked Mallory Minor to speak on The Film Appreciation Day. Ms. Minor stated that Stonecrest has been asked to recognize film initiatives, collaborations, and community engagements across the City of Stonecrest. The Film Committee has proposed a Film Appreciation Day, starting this year with the potential to grow each year, recognizing the Film Commission efforts. Cassandra Wilson stated this is a great idea and can also be used as a fund raiser in the future.

Chet Brewster asked about the committee becoming a Non-Profit Organization and the process of applying. Mrs. Wilson stated Film does not currently have a way to deposit funds that are raised, but if they become a non-profit, they will have their own account. Director Smith added that the Government has very strict guidelines on public non-profits and who they are actually controlled by.

F. Committee Assignments

Chair Turner spoke on the importance of marketing and communication, as lack of communication is one of the main issues the committee has and a committee dedicated to getting information out to the public is very important. Chair Turner asked for volunteers before assigning people.

Motion was made for Angel and Gazza Forte to head the Marketing and Communication Committee and Chair Turner agreed that was a great idea. Angel and Gazza agreed and volunteered.

G. Bo Legs Debrief

Chair Turner asked if anyone would like to share their experience with the Bo Legs Project. It was discussed that communication was one thing and people also struggled with finding it. Signage outside and volunteers to direct people was really needed and was present. Angel Forte added that Film needs to get some signs to post that are generic and can be used at each event. There is a list of volunteers that will assist when needed. Mrs. Forte also asked if Film could have a small budget for advertising to help promote the events. Chair Turner agreed to the suggestion of a budget for advertising and asked Director Smith about available funds for advertising events. Director Williams stated the dollar amount does not concern him, but the means of implementation. He will investigate and Chair Turner stated he is available to assist.

It was suggested by Mrs. Wilson that everyone on the committee donates \$5 - \$10 which should be enough to advertise until a budget is approved. Rob Turner agreed and stated the funds should be given to Angel Forte.

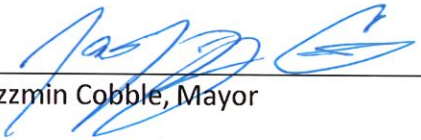
VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

As approved on the 21st day of May, 2026.

CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA



Jazzmin Cobble, Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk