I have to say, I am confused by the system that the council has developed to select volunteers for commissions and board positions. The number system seems entirely subjective even though the counting of the number scores is meant to look objective. I would much rather have the council discuss the merits of each applicant and really explore their qualifications, past service, and value they bring to the group they will be working with. If we wanted to ‘hire by the numbers” we wouldn’t need a council to sit in judgement.

And why would the council even waste time with the number game if there are the same number of applicants as there are position openings? Unless there is some glaring problem with an applicant, they should all be approved—and were. This is where the numbers are useless and discussion is valuable.

This system has resulted in the council making a big error in their Arts Commission appointment. Rather than the council discussing the merits, they have used arbitrary numbers to hide a partisan decision. The council’s highest priority should be the smooth functioning of the group and the special talents each member brings to the group. The council should have listened when both applicants and community members have said how excellent and effective the current members of the Arts Commission have been.

I am disappointed that the council did not acknowledge the chemistry of the current members of the commission, and just re-appoint the incumbents. I would remind the council of the old but true adage “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

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