

Arts District of Ada to be Recognized by the City of Ada

The Zoning and Ordinance subcommittee of the Arts District of Ada, has requested that the City of Ada make an official recognition of the Arts District Phase One Boundary area. See attached map below for the boundary area. The recognition is separate from the ordinance and does not come with any changes in zoning or other regulations. It merely formalizes the efforts of the community over the past four years and sets an official area that many are already recognizing. Across the State of Oklahoma as well as around the United States, the Arts District has been recognized and received awards for the process and partnerships that have made the Arts District. Locally, realtors have listed properties describing them as being the Arts District and new businesses have located within the boundary because of the Arts District. An official recognition by the City of Ada also allows the remaining USDA grant funds to purchase banners and signage to be displayed in the officially recognized boundary. Lastly, the recognition is a means to acknowledge the efforts of the businesses, organizations and individuals who have worked on this project in some form or another.

The City is placing the recognition on the June 6th agenda and the Council will vote whether to recognize the area. The **subcommittee requests that you contact the City Council members to express your support for passing the resolution.** The City Council members and their contact information are:

Mayor Dick Scalf (Ward 1 – Southeast quadrant): dscalf@cablone.net

Vice Mayor Matt Layton (Ward 4 – Southwest quadrant): matthewlayton@pplsi.com

Shane Sweeney (Ward 2 – Northeast quadrant): ShaneSweeney@cablone.net

Darrell Nemecek (Ward 3 – Northwest quadrant): dnemecek@adaok.com; darrellnemecek@yahoo.com

Greg McCortney (at-large member): greg@mccortney.com

The City of Ada website has a map highlighting the different wards. The map can be found at <http://www.adaok.com/Ward%20Map%20May%202011.jpg>.

When contacting the City Council, please specify your support for the recognition of the area as an Arts District. The ordinance is an entirely separate issue and is not on the June 6th agenda. The issue on the June 6th agenda does **not** address zoning, color palette, parking or setbacks that the ordinance does. The recognition simply designates the area in official terms as the “Arts District of Ada.”

Please feel free to modify the following message when contacting our elected officials:

Dear Councilman:

I urge The City Council to pass a resolution officially designating the Arts District of Ada. As you know, new businesses, exciting events, and fun things to do in the Arts District have already put Ada on the map, both statewide and nationally. Many organizations, as well as the City of Ada have invested huge sums of money in creating a new attraction for the city. I urge you and your fellow Council Members to move quickly on this simple designation. Thank you for moving Ada forward.

Sincerely,

Your name

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or others on the subcommittee.

Thank you,

Bridget Forshay, Amy Elliott, Mike Southard, Brad Jessop, and Jason Bolitho
(Arts District of Ada Zoning Subcommittee)

