

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
November 13, 2019

Members Present: Karen Askin
Liliane Blom
Therese Capal
Gary Gill
Tim Nixon
Jesse Marciniak
Howie Jung

Members Absent: Patricia Dubroof, Mary Baltimore

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Mayor Bridget Newton, Rob DiSpirito, City Manager,
Jenny Kimball, Deputy City Manager

Karen Askin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Black-eyed Susan Room at the City Hall.

Re: Discussion with City Manager Rob DiSpirito

- A discussion was held with City Manager, Rob DiSpirito on the Arts and Culture Study performed by The Cultural Planning Group. Rob thanked everyone for their volunteering efforts. He had read the report and was looking forward to what the commission thinks of the report and what their recommendations will be to the Mayor and Council.
- Commissioner expressed their interest and desired outcomes for the Arts and Culture report. Those include: An Office of Arts and Culture within the City, a website/calendar to promote the arts, having a strong advocate for the arts, also for the City to not lose track of existing arts organizations.
- Rob noted he would need direction from Mayor and Council before he could provide information on City priorities related to the Arts and Culture Study.
- Commissioner shared that they will be inviting a wide range of art groups to participate in an Art Summit on March 22 at Visarts. Rob shared that he was involved in a similar collaboration called “Combing Forces” in Dunedin, Florida.
- Commission member Jesse suggested holding an informal session with the Mayor and Council on ways to elevate the arts in Rockville.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes for the October 16, 2019 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

The Mayor and Council will hold a work session related to Urban Land Institute report on November 25. Holding a dedication at the Pump House in East Rockville on Sat. Nov 16 to honor former Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio. Mayor and Council Inauguration will be held on Sunday, Nov. 17. The Mayor and Council will consider a request for proposal for a master plan for redevelopment of RedGate golf course. King Farm is another cultural arts resource.

Re: Staff Report

Staff reported the following items.

- On October 16, Rob DiSpirito signed the memorandum regarding the recommendations of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Artist Nomination Committee that Paul Walco be awarded the \$5,000 art commission for his proposal for the tree carving art project for Montrose Park. The City attorney's office prepared the contract and Betty Wisda sent the contract to Paul Waclo on October 18. The completion date for the tree carving project is January 31, 2020.
- The opening reception of the exhibit featuring the "Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County" and the Montgomery College Students' Sculpture Show was held on Sunday, Nov. 3 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. A luncheon in honor of the Holocaust survivors and a poetry workshop was held on Wednesday, November 6 at Glenview Mansion. A tour of the exhibit and comments by a Holocaust survivor for middle school students will be held on Tuesday, November 19 and Thursday, November 21.
- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, the Rockville Concert Band will perform "Theme and Variations" concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 24 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Under the direction of Eleanor Simpson, the Rockville Civic Ballet will present the 45th Anniversary of "The Nutcracker" on Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15 at 2 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- The opening reception for the Rockville Art League Members' Juried Show will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 8 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
- Under the direction of John Saint Amour, the Rockville Concert band will perform "Christmas at the Cinema" at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 22 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Under the direction of Bryan Seith, the Rockville Chorus will perform "Holiday Harmonies at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 22 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

Re: Chairperson's Report

Alicia Martin has resigned from the commission. There is one opening at this time. Jesse questioned the process of applying to serve on a commission. As a potential member was

not notified that they were not chosen to sit on the commission. Notification is the reasonability of the City Clerk's office.

Re: Arts Summit Planning

- Tasks were assigned to commission members for Arts Summit to be held on March 22 at VisArts.
- Sub-committee will set up a planning meeting for the event.
- Tim and Gary shared a preliminary version of the website they have been working on to promote the arts groups.

Re: Old Business

- No report

Re: New Business

- No report

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.