

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
December 11, 2019

Members Present: Karen Askin
Liliane Blom
Therese Capal
Gary Gill
Patricia Dubroof
Howie Jung
Melissa Law
Jesse Marciniak

Members Absent: Mary Baltimore, Tim Nixon

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala, absent

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Connor Lee

Karen Askin called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes for the November 13, 2019 meeting (with corrections).

Re: Councilmember Report

No report.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Shout out to Liliane – her work is now on display at Montgomery Mall. This is an excellent example of arts groups working together. This will lead to more opportunities for other artists working in the area.
- Rockville Science Center moved into space one occupied by Toy Kingdom and will eventually have a planetarium. Bob Ekman very excited about the visibility they will have at the new location.
- After the last meeting, Rob DiSpirito invited Karen to breakfast for a follow up on the discussion held at the November meeting. Rob shared how impressed he was with Commission and how serious they are about the arts in Rockville.

Re: Staff Report

Staff reported the following items.

- Arts and Culture Study was distributed November 25. Will resend if needed. There were changes in the updated study. The focus on the Art in Public Places section was new. Finances were listed in the updated study. Patricia would like to see a breakdown of the finances for the last 5 years. Karen said she would share what has been provided. Martin had mentioned it as a potential funding source for future works.
- On Monday, January 27 the Mayor and Council will hold a work session with Martin Cohen and Karen on the Arts and Culture Study. Andy also suggested members attend the Community forums where they each have three minutes to speak and give any opinions on RedGate or any other topics.
- The Cultural Arts Commission has been assigned a new attorney, Jodi Schulz, she reminded Andy that commission members are not allowed to conduct business or ask direction via email which is violation of the Opening Meetings Act policy.
- Andy met with PIO manager, Marylou Berg regarding the new website and explained that the City has a different set of requirements than a .com website has. Andy suggested that Tim or Gary meet with the City web designer, Tatum Walker, who can give suggestions on SEC. Search Engine Optimizations. Share better ways to present the website to the public.
- Update on the Underpass Project - trying to work with a Baltimore based sign company, The Gable Company, who designed the framework for the Penguins Mural. Suggested metal paneling that artists can work on and install. The Gable Company has their own engineers and can provide what we need for CSX. CSX has said they do not want attachments so will have to be presented to them again. Once this is done a new call for entries will be done. Need to find out overall costs.
- David Scull Park near the intersection of Gude Drive and Taft Road has been identified for a new possible site for another tree stump caring.
- 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: Arts Summit Planning

- Tasks were assigned to committee members for the 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

- Jesse inquired about a cannabis dispensary that would like public art on the side of their building plus the addition of bike racks. Andy said they would need approval from the owner of the property to do anything. The transportation department can work with them to set up bike racks.

Re: New Business

- Motion to appoint Patricia Dubroof to the Art in Public Places Subcommittee. Unanimously approved.
- Motion to appoint Therese Capal to the Culture and Arts Organizations Subcommittee. Unanimously approved.
- Motion to appoint Howie Jung to the Culture and Arts Organizations Subcommittee. Unanimously approved.
- Karen is writing a letter to the Mayor asking for Mark Piezchala to remain as the CAC liaison due to his longevity on the commission. Karen says the other Council members should visit or be educated about us. Motion made and passed with one abstention.
- Patricia would like to make a presentation or information for new Council Members to educate them on what the commission does. Invite them to the summit and Cultural Arts Commission meetings.

Re: Announcements

- Karen said Dawson's Craft Market will be held Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Peerless Rockville has opened their new exhibition at the Red Brick Courthouse. Artwork for sale there. Death Café is coming up Dec. 17 at Al Carbon. Rockville Choir performing at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22.
- Karen was approached to work with the new apartment building near Town Center where 25 % of the apartments will be set aside for those with intellectual or physical disabilities. The opening to have paintings that can be sold during the event. If you know of artist who might be interested. It would be held at the end of September or early October.
- Introductions of committee members were made to Connor Lee.

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.