

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
February 19, 2020

Members Present: Karen Askin, Helen Aberger,
Liliane Blom, Therese Capal,
Patricia Dubroof, Gary Gill,
Howie Jung, Melissa Law, Connor Lee,
Jesse Marciniak, Tim Nixon

Members Absent: None

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala,

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Laura Creech, Betty Wisda

Guests Present: Sarah Moline, Arezou Gill

Karen Askin called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center. Karen welcomed new commission members Helen Aberger and Connor Lee.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the January 8, 2020 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Mark Pierzchala said he was happy to be back after missing a few meetings. He said the Cultural Arts Commission has come a long way in the last four years and said if it weren't for the commission, the Arts and Culture Study report would not have been done.
- Mark Pierzchala to remain as commission liaison.
- Mark proposed one-time grants for the three RESCO's for \$25,000.
- One of the RESCOs - members of the Victorian Lyric Opera will have their voices heard by singing at the March 2 public forum meeting.
- Regarding the Cultural Arts position, Mark cautioned about pushing for the title of Director. Director-level position is at-will and can be eliminated if necessary.
- Mayor and Council have received numerous proposals on the RedGate Golf Course property. They have been approached by the Veteran's Administration to build a retirement home for veterans. The land must be donated. City wants county and state involved in this.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Martin Cohen presented the Arts study to the Mayor and Council on January 27. In the work session, he mentioned the lack of diversity amongst the groups and participation in the groups he observed. He repeatedly spoke about the need for the arts to move with intent. Everything should be intent of moving the City's goals forward. The following week a work session was held on the report. There was an agreement that there needs to be an arts position with the city structure—discussion as to whether the City could move fast enough to hire before January 2020.

Re: Staff Report

The staff reported the following items.

- Martin Cohen, a partner of The Cultural Planning Group, presented the Arts and Culture Study to the Mayor and Council on January 27.
- Paul Waclo completed the wood carving of the Helix with six attached sports elements at Montrose Park on January 28.
- The opening reception of the 2020 Rockville Student Art Show was held on February 2 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Patrick Sieg, President of the Rockville Art League, and Betty Wisda, presented students with a Certificate of Recognition signed by the Mayor and Council.
- The Mayor and Council held a work session about the Arts and Culture Study on February 3.
- The Rockville Concert Band presented “Swinging Sunday: Annual Jazz Concert” on February 9 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. The Rockville Swing band was the guest ensemble.
- Mimi McNell of the Rockville Concert Band was selected for the Maryland Recreation and Parks Community Volunteer Award for her dedication, talent and hard work to ensure the success of the band.
- The proposed budget will be available by February 14 and present to Mayor and Council on February 24.
- Public budget work sessions are scheduled for March 2 and March 23.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Betty reported that Paul Waclo finished the tree carving at Montrose Park and heard lots of good comments about the piece.
- The sub-committee reviewed the proposal by artist, Chris Connor for the CIP project and tree carving sculpture of the full-size likeness of Walter Johnson at Dogwood Park. There will be a ballpark replica with the statue of Walter Johnson on the pitcher's mound. Interactive signs telling about his life and the Washington Senators baseball team will be included. Project to be completed by March 21.
- The end of March should complete repair work on the neon lighting on the Crossroads sculpture in town center. Damage assessed and repairs to be done by repelling from the VisArts rooftop down the side of the building.

- Artist nominating committee will make a site visit, review proposals, select finalist and make recommendations for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center project. The project has \$100,000 budget.
- The committee has plans for site visits and moving forward with the Gateway project on Fallsgrove Road near Thomas Farm Community Center commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Arts in Public Places.
- Tim mentioned that the long hallway between the men's and women's locker rooms at the Swim and Fitness Center could be utilized as a display space. Andy will investigate it.
- Patricia suggested a sculpture garden at RedGate. Works could be borrowed from a major museum in the area. The former Director of the Kreeger Museum is interested in helping with the sculpture garden concept.
- We need to have a discussion about RedGate and make a formal presentation to the Mayor and Council. Mark Pierzchala said they have already received five proposals.
- Karen will work on a letter regarding the RedGate space and using it for the arts.
- On behalf of the CAC, Tim Nixon is to write a letter to the Mayor and Council. The message will express the desire that King Farm Farmstead be an artist in residence location along with the use of the barns.
- Sarah Moline is working on a creative placemaking plan and will share her project with the Commission and Mayor and Council.
 - She stated that fifteen potential placemaking sites around the City could be interesting to consider.

**Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and
Arts Summit Planning**

- The Rockville Arts Summit is scheduled for March 22 at VisArts.
- Diversity – subcommittee is working on a panel. Commission members expressed concern about the complexity of the subject and the best approach to take for the Summit.
- 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

- Patricia needs updated emails and cell numbers for the new member.

Re: New Business

- Arts in Public Places sub-committee could use some new members. Melissa Law would like to attend the next meetings on March 3 and March 5.
- Helen has been drafted to the Summit Committee.
- A motion was passed unanimously for Tim Nixon to write a letter on behalf of the Cultural Arts Commission to the Mayor and Council. The message will express

the desire that King Farm Farmstead be used as an artist in residence location. Plus, the barns at King Farm could be used for artist purposes such as rehearsal space.

- The Rockville Arts Festival is scheduled for May.
 - A film festival *Frame and Frequency* will be part of the festival this year.
 - Free Short feature films will be shown during the day and with a small cover charge long-format films in the evenings. The goal is to attract a younger demographic to the festival.
 - *Rockville Made* will have a tent at the festival to promote local Rockville artists.

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.