

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
**Minutes**  
**February 13, 2019**

Members Present:

Therese Capal  
Gary Gill  
Patricia Dubroof  
Tim Nixon  
Jesse Marciniak  
George McHugh  
Howard Faulkner  
Alicia Martin

Members Absent:

Karen Askin, Mary Baltimore, Liliane Blom, George  
McHugh

Councilmember:

Mayor Bridget Newton in attendance for Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present:

Andy Lett, Laura Creech

Patricia Dubroof, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center. Welcomed new member, Alicia Martin to the commission. Also introduced potential member Ernie Joselovitz.

**Re: Approval of the Minutes**

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes for the January 9, 2019 meeting.

**Re: Chairperson's Report**

Therese welcomed Commissioners and introduced Mayor Newton to the meeting.

**Re: Councilmember Report**

Mayor Newton said City is humming. Planning Commission is moving forward with Twinbrook Development. They have a two-week hiatus and meetings start back on Feb. 25 and will get to work on the budget. Hope to have Stonestreet plan adopted and hope ERCA and Lincoln Park buy into the project.

**Re: Staff Report**

Staff reported the following items.

- Arts and Culture Study was awarded to the Cultural Planning Group from Melrose Park, Pennsylvania. Staff held a preliminary organizational meeting with the consultant on February 12. We are looking to conduct interviews with various stakeholders in mid to late March.

- The Recreation Program Specialist position has been officially eliminated. This position was responsible for the Glenview Art Gallery, student art show, Sunday Afternoon Concerts and several other events. The City will still be holding two Rockville Art League exhibits and the Student Art Show. City staff is working on the logistics of keeping works art displayed at Glenview Mansion for the remainder of the year.
- Dr. Juan Gallastegui was hired as the Associate Music Director for the Rockville Concert band.
- Louise Atkins, Management Assistant, and Betty Wisda, Arts Programs Supervisor, prepared a memorandum for Rob DiSpirito, City Manager regarding the Underpass at Park Road. The memo included the recommendations of the Art Review Panel, Mayor and Council feedback, Public Works staff input, and a summary. The next step is for staff to have a meeting with Rob DiSpirito to discuss the memorandum.
- Staff met with staff from the Public Works Department to provide an update on the Underpass at Park Road Art Project and discuss the rust issue on December 17. The next step is to give an update to the City Manager regarding the meetings with the members of the Mayor and Council and the staff of the Public Works Department.

#### **Re: Task Force/Committee Updates**

##### Art in Public Places

- Committee met on February 4. Betty Wisda provided updates on the “Greeting from Rockville” Art Project; the Underpass at Park Road Art Project; the Tree Carving at Montrose Park’ Public Artwork Condition Assessment; and the Fiscal Year 2020 Art in Public Architecture Art Projects.
- “Greetings from Rockville” Art Project: Betty Wisda is working with the City Attorney’s Office to obtain a signed contract between the City and Urban Edge Properties for the use of the façade of the building structure at the corner of E. Montgomery Avenue and Helen Heneghan Way. Upon receipt of this signed contract, staff will obtain a signed contract from Victor Ving and Lisa Beggs in the amount of \$22,000 to design and fabricate the art project with a completion date of late spring/early summer 2020.
- The underpass at Park Road Art Project: Rockville needs to enter into an engineering agreement to move forward with the CSX (east) side of the underpass. WMATA is fine with attaching art to the underpass on the Route 355 (west) side which they maintain.
- Tree Carving at Montrose Park: Betty Wisda will schedule a meeting with two representatives of Montrose Civic Association, two members of the Art in Public Places Committee, and one representative from Montrose Discovery Preschool in early March. The purpose of the meeting is to

- discuss the Call for Entries for the tree carving art project.
- Public Artwork Condition Assessment: Betty Wisda is preparing pertinent information from the assessment to provide to seven artists regarding the condition of the works of art and treatment recommendations. She will request the artists to submit a cost estimate and a suggested completion date.
- The fiscal Year 2020 Art in Public Architecture Art Projects: The one percent amount yielded from construction costs for renovations to the Outdoor Bathhouse, the South Pool and the Locker Room is \$106,488 for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project. The one percent amount yielded for the construction costs for the Skate Park is \$13,980.

#### Culture and Arts Organization Committee

- RESCO meeting held January 24 with members of the three resident companies. Attendees included; Helen Abeger and Bill Rogers of Victorian Lyric Opera Company, Andrew Dodge and Colleen Prior of Rockville Musical Theatre, Dean Fiala of Rockville Little Theatre, CAC members Jesse Marciniak and Patricia Dubroof and City staff members Paige Janzen and Andy Lett. RESCO expressed wanting to have more of a partnership than a relationship with the City. This would include more promotion and involvement with the City such as participating in the Memorial Day Parade, inviting the Mayor and Council to attend events. Present events that can be shown by Rockville. Improving marketing by promoting events through weekly email blast system, Social Media, website calendars and banners.

Presentation by Cindy Stewart from Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Cindy is the Executive Director and is the City's development arm in helping businesses navigate through the permitting processes and helping them solve workforce issues. She wants to know what the City wants and how art and culture can blend with business.

Presentation by Dean Fiala from Rockville Little Theatre. Dean discussed their 71-year history and the successes and challenges of putting on a variety of shows to draw diverse audiences. Their biggest challenge is 75% of their operating costs come from facility rental space. They struggle with finding grants, appealing to younger more diverse audiences, visibility, marketing, social media audiences.

Presentation by Roberta Mandrekas from the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference. Roberta discussed how the literary conference has grown from a one-day to a three-day event since it began 23 years ago. The event seeks to honor the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald and those of prominent American literary artists; and to support, encourage, and assist aspiring and emerging writers and students interested in the literary arts. Along with professional workshops, film screenings, panel discussions, and student writing contests, the festival offers a unique opportunity for aspiring writers to have their work

critiqued by accomplished writers. Last year's honoree was author Richard Russo. F. Scott Fitzgerald's granddaughter and great-granddaughter were also at last year's event.

**Re: Old Business**

After serving as a dedicated member on the board for 19 years, Howard Faulkner resigned from the commission. He discussed how the commission has evolved over the years and that he was leaving at a good time.

**Re: New Business**

- We are taking applications for Howard's spot on the board.
- The Art in Public Places sub-committee has 2 spots with Howard leaving and one open place on the board.
- Gary Gill brought up the need to have a repository of all events in one location to promote shows in Rockville such as the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival held at the Twinbrook Hilton Feb. 15-17. Microbreweries are holding more shows.
- The suggestion is that Peerless, tourism organization or City Public Information Office could explore this to promote shows and events. However, the government website has restrictions.
- Commission members are sending email to City Manager about why they are eliminating the Arts Specialist position when Rockville is trying to become an Arts and Cultural Destination.
- Work at Glenview Mansion is scheduled to be completed at the end of April and open in May. After Cultural and Art Organizations presentations the commission discussed moving CAC meeting to different facilities around the city.
- Rockville Science Center, Montgomery College, and Rockville Chorus are expected to present at the next meeting in February.

**Re: Next Meeting**

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

**Re: Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Alicia and second by Patricia. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.