

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Members Present: Karen Askin, Therese Capal, Cristin Cash, Liz Ortuzar, Howie Jung, Francis Bevington, Patricia Dubroof, Spencer Knoll, Rosemary Storey

Members Absent: Brian Rogers, Melissa Sera

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Barack Matite, Deputy City Manager, City of Rockville

Chairperson, Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the February 8, 2023, meeting.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Karen introduced the new Deputy City Manager, Barack Matite, who is joining tonight's meeting to familiarize him with the Cultural Arts Commission as the position of the new arts will be under his leadership.
- Karen testified at the M&C meeting on behalf of the Cultural Arts Commission and in support of the budget for projects put forth through AIPP. For the first time since AIPP began, the City proposed to remove 1/10 of 1% of funds set aside for public art projects from the budget.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Monday night's meeting adjourned at 12:24 am. Spent the bulk of the meeting on budget and mostly CIP projects. The horse barn discussion is frustrating. Rockville Civic Ballet came out in force with a proposal for a horse barn to be their new home. Their current location is too small and constrained. The horse barn is a historic structure but in bad shape and needs to be stabilized and restored. Restoration would cost approximately \$4 million and would need an additional \$1.8 million to make it ready for use. Unfortunately, there isn't enough support from the Mayor and Council. If the horse barn was to be rebuilt properly, it would be the largest free open space in the City. The King Farm Homestead campus could potentially become a cultural arts center. The house is almost usable and could be an artist-in-residence location. A lot of the infrastructure in place already. Possible grants are available for historical preservation. Need a solution to protect the ballet marley flooring during the day. EYA,

who is building high-quality homes abutting the homestead has already started construction on the 47-space parking lot adjacent to the homestead as part of the agreement for the developer to build at the site. King Farm Homestead could become a Visual, Performing, and Cultural Arts Center all in one.

- Karen gave an extremely effective presentation at the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday night. She brought up the issue of AIPP money's proposed removal from the budget. We don't want to set a precedent that this is an optional item. More work sessions in the coming weeks.
- In the last five years, the Cultural Arts Commission and cultural arts have come to the forefront in a way it hasn't in the last 25 years. The new arts position is a huge step.

Re: Staff Report

- Andy asked Barack Matite to introduce himself to Cultural Arts Commission. Previously worked as the City Manager for Eudora, KS outside Kansas City. He feels the arts have in many communities helping to revitalize them.
- 350 people attended "A Night at the Theatre" concert performed by the Rockville Concert Band on February 12 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Music Director Dr. Juan Gallastegui, Former Music Director Dr. Robert Tennyson, and the band members were very pleased with the attendance since it was a very cold and rainy afternoon on Super Bowl Sunday.
- 150 people attended the "Swing! Swing! Swing!" concert performed by the Rockville Swing Band on the evening of February 12 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Conductor Josh Frayer and the band members were very pleased with the attendance number since it was a very cold and rainy evening on Super Bowl Sunday.
- Seven art patrons purchased artwork from the Rockville Art League's "Heart of Winter" show, and two inquiries to purchase artwork (N.F.S.) from the Rockville Student Juried Art Exhibit that was on display from late January through mid-February at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
- Betty Wisda is featured on a YouTube video regarding the "Three Floating Friends" by Matthew Geller installed at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's vestibule and is posted on Rockville Channel 11 website.
- Three art patrons purchased artwork during the "Meet the Artists' for the Washington Watercolor Association's exhibit that was held on February 26 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Attendees viewed the artwork and talked to the artists featured in the current exhibit. The exhibit will be on display until March 24.
- The three finalists presented their site-specific proposals for the Rockville Senior Center Mural to the Artist Nomination Committee on Monday, February 27.
- The three finalists presented their site-specific proposals for the Rockville City Hall Generator Screen Mural to the Artist Nomination Committee on Tuesday, Feb. 28.
- Betty Wisda submitted applications Maryland State Arts Council Public Art Conservation Grant in the amount of \$45,790 and the Maryland State Arts Council Grant Arts Relief Funding in the amount of \$48,297. She received notification that the grants were awarded to the City of Rockville's Arts Division. The Mayor and Council authorized the City Manager to execute these Maryland State Arts Council grant agreements at their meeting on February 27.

- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, the Rockville Concert Band will perform “Zarzuela & Pasodobles” at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 12 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. The music will feature a celebration of Spanish drama and dance.
- Under the direction of Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong, the Rockville Civic Ballet will present “Lancelot,” one kingdom's tale of knights, adventure, and love! The performances are scheduled at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 25 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 26 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, the Rockville Concert Band will perform “A John Philip Sousa Tribute” at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 2 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. The music will feature the biggest name ever in the wind band world in the United States.
- Betty Wisda facilitated the meetings of the Art in Public Places (Permanent/Temporary) Committees on March 1 and, as the City’s staff liaison, will attend the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival meeting on March 14.

Re: Arts in Public Places – Permanent Works of Art

- Arts Programs Supervisor, Betty Wisda was taped by Rockville Channel 11 staff regarding the artwork of “Three Floating Friends” by Matthew Geller on February 1 at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
- Creating bronze plaques for the new artwork installations at the Skate Park and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
- Last meeting also covered what was submitted for the budget for the Woodley Gardens sculpture as an Art in Public Places project and temporary mural and maintenance.
- Betty submitted the following requests for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.
 - Special Activities Fund for Art in Public Architecture Cost Center: total \$97,860 for Rockville Swim Center Outdoor Pool (\$78,860) and 6 Taft Court (\$19,000).
 - Special Activities Fund for Art in Public Places Cost Center: total \$157,500 for Woodley Gardens Art Project (\$50,000), Two Mural Projects (\$50,000), Special Event Art Project (\$6,000) and Public Art Maintenance (\$51,500).

Re: Arts in Public Places - Temporary Works of Art

- Francis presented the background of the mural projects at the Senior Center and the generator screen located outside of City Hall. There were over 100 responses. Selection committees identified three finalists for each site. For the Senior Center mural, the sub-committee chose Katie Giganti of Mt Airy. She presented two different options, and both were strong. Using concepts from community input she created a continuous line drawing on top of bright colors. Francis called for a motion, and it passed unanimously, to present the mural recommended by the sub-committee to Mayor and Council for their approval. The total cost of the mural project is \$12,500.
- Cristin presented information on the selection committee’s choice for the generator screen at City Hall. They narrowed down their selection to three finalists and chose Shawn James of Baltimore. His design is minimal with Rockville’s indigenous history and heritage and landmarks included in the concept. The total cost of the mural project is \$12,500.

- Motion made and passed unanimously, to present the mural design recommended by the selection committee to Mayor and Council for their approval. The artist will make a few changes to the final design that were recommended by the selection committee.

Re: Human Rights Commission

- No report

Re: Old Business

- Andy is working through the implementation plan. There is a new process with agenda meeting software. He is also working with attorneys on the new code process.
- Francis wanted to discuss asphalt art for new bike lanes going in around town. Will discuss this in more detail at the next meeting.

Re: New Business

- Karen thanked Andy for drawing attention to International Night on Friday, March 17 at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Perfect opportunity to make great connections and hear more suggestions for sites and themes coming out of our diverse community.
- Karen would appreciate it if someone would attend the March 20 Mayor and Council meeting. You will have three minutes to speak in the community forum to show support for the arts in general and the King Farm Homestead project. She asked that as many members as possible come out in force for the budget work session and budget public hearing on Monday, April 17. We can decide at the April 12 Cultural Arts Commission meeting to have Karen go again or have someone else attend on April 17.
- Francis and Cristin were nominated to make presentations before Mayor and Council regarding the mural projects. Stressing the level of community participation and discussion undertaken to implement the projects.

Re: Announcements

- Patricia provided updates on the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival. They are discussing a change in location. The Unitarian church gave FSFLF a 75% discount last year, so they agreed to use the place again right after last year's event. The church recently sent over the new price and it is much higher than last year, so we are looking into other locations like Montgomery College. Therese and Liliane have offered to help with the festival poster contest. The short story contest also has the prospectus out. Great workshops are planned. Last year's honoree, Richard Powers recently had an opera created of Overstory and their now rate is much higher.

Re: Next Meeting

- The next meeting Cultural Arts Commission will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on April 12, 2023.

Re: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.