

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

March 11, 2020

Members Present: Karen Askin, Helen Aberger,
Liliane Blom, Howie Jung,
Connor Lee, Jesse Marciniak
Members Absent: Therese Capal, Patricia Dubroof, Gary Gill,
Melissa Law, Tim Nixon
Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala,
Staff Present: Andy Lett, Laura Creech, Betty Wisda
Guests Present: None

Re: Call to Order

Karen Askin called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the February 12, 2020 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Next budget discussion will be held on March 23. Adoption of the budget in early April. Tough when budget falls on a federal election year.
- Mark proposed grants for the three RESCO's for \$25,000 each.
- Pushing to get something done with King Farm Homestead. Mark sees this as an incredible recreational space. However, there are many hurdles to overcome to make the buildings usable due to historic designations, fire and safety codes and deed covenants. Mark to look into a private tour of barns for commission members.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- No Report

Re: Staff Report

Staff reported the following items.

- On February 24, 2020 the City Manager presented the budget which included 1.0 FTE Arts and Culture Coordinator position. The position is proposed to be in the City Manager's office.
- Betty Wisda is working with Vicki Bailey to display her panels at Croydon Creek Nature Center. The panels represent birds photographed at the former Redgate Golf Course.

- Mimi McNeel of the Rockville Concert Band was presented the Maryland Recreation and Parks Community Volunteer Award on February 27 at the Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. She received the award for her dedication, talent and hard work to ensure the success of the band.
- The opening reception of the Montgomery Art Association exhibit was held on March 1 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. An Artist Talk on abstract painting was held on March 5 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
- The Artist Nomination Committee met on March 3 to discuss pertinent information regarding the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project.
- On March 4, Mayor Bridget Newton, Tim Chesnutt, Colleen McQuitty and Betty Wisda met with Jeni Stepanek and Laura Bauer, executive director of Mattie J. T. Stepanek Foundation, to discuss planning for Peace Day.
- The Artist Nomination Committee met on March 5 to discuss pertinent information regarding the Gateway Art Project at the corner of Route 28 and Fallsgrove Drive.
- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, Associate Music Director, the Rockville Concert Band presented “Spanish Road Trip” on March 8 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- The Art in Public Places Committee met on March 9 at City Hall.
- Under the direction of Eleanor Simpson, the Rockville Civic Ballet will present “Swan Lake” at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 14 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 15 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- The opening reception of “Times5” and Women by Women” will be held 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 5 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
- Under the direction of John Saint Amour, Music Director, the Rockville Concert Band will perform “Good Versus Evil” at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 19 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Betty reported that the sub-committee members Patricia, Therese and Lilliane visited the Rockville Swim Center on March 3 and saw three potential sites for the proposed art project. This project has a \$100,000 budget.
- Toured site of Gateway project at the corner of Route 28 and Fallsgrove Drive. Will send a call for artists with budget of \$250,000. Betty is working with IT department so artists can apply online. They expect approximately 100 artists for the swim center and 250 artists for the Gateway Project.
- The tree carving sculpture of Walter Johnson at Dogwood Park by Chris Connor, should be completed by March 31.
- Repairs to the Crossroads sculpture in town center should be completed by the end of March.
- Sarah Moline is working on a creative placemaking planshe wants to share with Commission and Mayor and Council. There are 15 or so potential sites around the city with suggestions that could be interesting to consider. Patricia suggested a presentation at an up coming commission meeting.

- Underpass Project at Park Road framework approved by WMATA. Now will need drawings showing scope of work. Cost for drawings of design would be \$5,000. Next you will need to pay CSX a fee (\$10,000-\$50,000) before they will talk to you about the plans.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Arts Summit Planning

- Sub-committee member Jesse announced that they should postpone the Creatives Summit scheduled for March 22 at VisArts. A motion was carried by Helen and second by Howie to postpone the summit indefinitely due to the Covid-19 virus.
- Sub-committee will email all the registrants about the cancellation and redirect a set-up planning meeting for the event.

Re: Old Business

- Rockville Chorus did sectional rehearsals at the Senior Center and found that all the pianos were out of tune. Howie asked who is responsible for tune-ups and Andy said the Senior Center is responsible.
- Karen to email letter from Americans for the Arts, Arts and Humanities. Karen to share what the presentation was about.
- Karen asked Helen to reach out to Tim Nixon about updating the website regarding the cancelled summit.
- Karen is planning to print out fliers/post card listing action points of the commission to hand out at the International Night event on March 20 if it's not cancelled. This would be a good way to reach out to artists at the show and share the commission's advocacy for arts and diversity in the community.
- Andy will keep commission members informed if International Night is cancelled due to Covid 19 virus.
- Mark suggested that someone from the commission attend the March 23 Mayor and Council meeting as a way of reinforcing their letter sent in support for the King Farm Homestead as a potential place for the arts. Helen plans to attend representing the VLOC. Liliane nominated Jesse and he accepted to speak on behalf of the CAC at the March 23 Mayor and Council meeting.
- Andy will talk with Sara Moline regarding her Creative Placemaking proposal.
- The CAC discussed if it was the CAC place to make endorsements on proposal received by the individuals or groups.
- Mark offered a suggestion to the CAC to consider doing something similar to the Rockville Historic Commission process and calling it a feedback session or courtesy review.

Re: New Business

- The Commission discussed sub-committee times to be held before CAC monthly meetings. Jesse suggested shortening the time to 30 minutes for the sub-committee meetings. Sub-committees' members agreed to hold the Arts in Public Places sub-committee meetings from 6-6:30 p.m. and the Cultural Arts Organization sub-committee meeting from 6:30-7 p.m.

- Andy suggested that if the AIPP has more people on the sub-committee then they can branch out and would not need to be on every art project.
- Jesse motioned for Connor Lee to be on the AIPP sub-committee. Lillian second. Connor Lee is now on the sub-committee.

Re: Next Meeting

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

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.