

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Members Present: Karen Askin, Connor Lee, Patricia Dubroof, Melissa Law, Howie Jung, Brian Rogers,

Members Absent: Francis Bevington, Therese Capal, Rosemary Storey

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Laura Creech, Andy Lett, Betty Wisda,

Guests Present: None

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes written for the March 9, 2022 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Budget still in flux. The Cultural Arts position will be filled, but not sure where it will be placed to have the most impact.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Karen thanked members for being flexible and attending the meeting on Tuesday, April 12, instead of Wednesday, so Andy could attend.
- On April 7, Karen spoke before the Mayor and Council budget hearing on behalf of the CAC. She emphasized CAC support for the new Arts position. Karen suggested the need for the job description to include information and the title of Cultural Arts Manager as indicated in the Cultural Arts Study. She also addressed whether the new position should be placed under the City Manager's office or within Recreation and Parks for the most success.

Re: Staff Report

- Budget amendments were made for a new Special Events position to begin in F 2022.
- The Arts Coordinator position is listed under City Manager’s office in the FY2023 proposed budget.
- Betty Wisda, staff liaison, attended the virtual meeting of the Planning Committee of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival on Tuesday, March 22.
- The three finalists presented their art proposals virtually to the Artist Nomination Committee for the Rockville Skate Park Art Project on March 15.
- Under the direction of Len Morse, the Rockville Concert Band presented “The Year 2020” concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Councilmember Monique Ashton made opening remarks. The City of Rockville’s Arts Division and the Rockville Art League presented the award-winning artwork from the “Lost, Found, and Looking Forward” exhibit; the artwork was displayed in the lobby that afternoon. Red Ramzor Studios was contracted to live-stream this concert. This concert was the first event live streamed from the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the world premiere of the commissioned music composition by Johan de Meij to honor lives lost to COVID-19 and hope for the future was postponed and rescheduled for the concert on April 10.
- The “Meet the Artists” for the “Lost, Found, and Looking Forward” exhibit was held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. The exhibit will be on display through May 6 in the art gallery.
- Under the direction of Eleanor Simpson and Erin Kwong, the Rockville Civic Ballet presented “sold out” performances of “Cinderella” at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 27, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, the Rockville Concert Band presented “Music for an Anniversary” concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Dr. Robert Tennyson, Dr. Vincent Patterson, and John Saint Amour, former Music Directors, also conducted musical selections to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Rockville Concert Band. The world premiere of “The Year 2020” by Johan de Meij, the commissioned music composition to honor lives lost to COVID-19, was performed by the band. The composer was present and made remarks at this concert.
- Kudos to Betty for her work on having the Arts Division awarded a Public Art Conservation Grant for \$22,127 from the Maryland State Arts Council. The conservation work is designated for “William Gibbs” by Charlotte Lees, located on Gibbs Street in Rockville Town Square and “ColorPlay” by Stephen Canneto, located at the Village Green Park in Falls Grove.
- The Rockville Metro Station, Temporary Bus Shelters Art Project continues to move forward with preparing of a draft agreement between the City of Rockville and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Art in Transit Program and the Call for Artists. The draft needs to go through WMATA departmental approvals.
- Holding two more RedGate Park input meetings. Important to share your thoughts on the park. Andy sent the link www.engagerockville/Redgate-park.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Held sub-committee meeting on April 10. Francis is trying to get a regular meeting date. Polling members to select the best day.
- Motion made and approved to accept the recommendation from the AIPP sub-committee members along with Rockville Park Board member, Jonathan Weiss and local skate park user Jonathan Marino to award the Skate Park art project to Christian Benefiel and Ryan McKibbin of 731 Studios at the cost of \$14,580. Members said they were very enthusiastic about their artwork in the presentation and placed a lot of thought into the design for each of the five pieces representing famous skaters making iconic maneuvers in skateboarding history.
- Motion passed to have Betty send emails to Artists whose artwork was not selected for the Skate Park art project.
- Mark suggested that whoever is presenting the recommendation for selecting the Skate Park art installation has answers ready for Mayor and Council in case they have questions. We need to explain why the artists were chosen and how the art will enhance the site. Why does the artist connect to art? It would be even better if the artists attended the meeting. Maybe some skateboarders too.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Creatives Summit Planning Task Force

- No report

Re: Human Rights Commission

- Brian reported they are concentrating their efforts on planning the 6th Annual Pride Celebration event held in Rockville Town Square 2-4 p.m. on June 26. They are looking for staff to run the arts and crafts table at the event. Karen shared that VisArts provided arts and crafts supplies in the past and for them to reach out to her.

Re: Old Business

- The application for the Student Ambassador Program for CAC is up on the website. Connor plans to reach out to high school counselors about the program. He requested help from members and Brian and Francis were interested.

Re: New Business

- AIPP Implementation Plan expires at the end of 2022. It expires every five years. Karen and Francis will go through it and make any updates to emphasize temporary works of art and how it changes and impacts communities socially and economically. They will present the updated AIPP Implementation Plan to the commission for review.
- Discussion held on the best placement of new Arts position for most success and impact. The Commission believes the Arts position would be best under Recreation

and Parks since they have greater internal access to valuable resources, special events staff, arts groups, schools, RESCO and vital contacts. However, they noted that the Arts position could do more strategic planning and economic development if under City Manager's office.

- Motion made for Karen to write a letter on behalf of CAC regarding the alignment of programs and mission of the new Arts position. The letter will recommend the position be placed under Recreation and Parks.
- Motion made to have Karen suggest that the City add the word "heritage" in the job title for the new Arts position to be an Arts, Culture and Heritage position. The CAC feels that including the word heritage can encompass more and is a broader term than the word "history."

Re: Announcements

- 10th annual Rockville Arts Festival presented by VisArts will be held on May 7-8 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Rockville Town Center.

Re: Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

Re: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.