

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes
April 15, 2020

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

Members Absent: Howie Jung, Connor Lee,

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala,

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Laura Creech, Betty Wisda

Guests Present: None

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the March 11, 2020 meeting with amendments.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Governors around the country are cutting budgets. The Mayor and Council has held three WebEx meetings. This past Monday they asked the City Manager to resubmit the FY21 budget less \$900,000 in cuts. Upon further review they didn't accept that amount but instead directed the City Manager to come up with \$740,000 in additional cuts by April 24 for a total of \$1.6 million in cuts. These cuts would come from employee step-increases and hiring freezes among other cuts. City staff to come back with recommendations the budget on April 27 and should be adopted on May 4 or May 11.
- Cultural Arts Coordinator position will be taken out. Mark stating that when the path smooths out that it would the time to hire someone.
- Four months ago, Mark proposed grants for the three RESCO's for \$25,000 each. There is still a possibility of receiving those grants. Mark urged the heads of the RESCO's to push for the approval of this grant money by submitting letters. Saying it's more important now than ever to personalize it by sharing their

stories and specific needs and benefits from the grants. Mark also suggested that the Cultural Arts Commission draft a letter in support advocating for the three RESCOs. The commission members delegated the authority to Jesse to draft and send a letter to the Mayor and Council on behalf of the CAC.

- There have been many communications with CAC regarding the King Farm Homestead as a potential place for the arts. At this point in time they may only find enough money to add fire suppression in all the dairy barns, horse barn and house. Mark to look into a private tour of barns for commission members.
- RedGate was not selected as the site of a new Veteran's retirement home. They selected one in Carroll County. The 144 acres will remain as park land and recreational space for now. Looking into possible alternative uses for the clubhouse and golf cart storage area. Possible use for performing arts groups. Commission members would like a tour of site.
- Mark said we are in for 3-5 years of rough times. Rec & Parks programs are about bringing people together. Hopefully 2-3 years from now the demand for programs will be back. Don't know who will still be standing after this time. He understands the CAC doesn't want to lose their momentum on building cultural arts in Rockville. CAC has made enormous progress and need to keep Cultural Arts as center piece.
- Commission discussed the future of available space around the City for potential arts and cultural space including Red Gate and Town Square/Town Center.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Karen and Andy listened to online broadcast of a DC Metro Virtual Town Hall – "Strategies for Survival in the Arts" on Tuesday night. This broadcast was an Arts Council Outreach for the DMV to address the impact of Covid-19 on the visual arts. The event shared innovative ideas and resources for organizations and artists. They had over 400 listening in through the Third Space Network. There was discussion on new Third Space Virtual exhibitions. Johns Hopkins is doing this already along with many others. Karen suggests thinking carefully before you jump into Virtual exhibitions and knowing what you are trying to do or present. Many ideas have come out lately such as virtual meetings "Drinking about Museums" third space program has individual talking museums with having a drink. The meeting was interesting to think of the Third Space (Internet) as a physical space. Second Life has communities have book and art discussions. Montgomery County hasn't come forward with any grants for artists.
- Shugall Marketing Research group did a survey on anticipated participation in the non-profit performing arts after the Covid-19 crisis. Had over 2,000 respondents. Andy to send the survey to committee members.

Re: Staff Report

Staff reported the following items.

- Hometown Holidays has been cancelled. The City is trying to reinvent ourselves. Going virtual where we can. All permits for events at town center have been pulled. Not sure if we would have funding to do two HTH events in one fiscal year.
- RESCO's cancelled May, June and July. Paige to let Tim know where we are. Could be dark for a year.
- The three performances of "Swan Lake" by the Rockville Civic Ballet were cancelled on March 14 and March 15 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre due to COVID-19
- The exhibit of Times5 and Women by Women scheduled for April 5 through May 8 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery has been postponed until July 5 through July 31 due to COVID-19.
- The Montgomery Art Association agreed to extend their exhibit that is currently on exhibit at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery until May 8. Due to the closures of City-owned facilities until April 30, the contact person of Montgomery Art Association posted an online version of the artwork for view by the public.
- Betty Wisda prepared the Call for Artists for the Rockville Gateway Art Project with a budget of \$250,000 and the Call for Artists for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project with a budget of \$100,000. The two Call for Artists will be distributed to local, regional, and national artists during the week of April She had requested Public Information Office staff to post the Call for Artists on the Art In Public Places webpage as well as an article be featured in the "Rockville Reports" May issue. The deadline to submit an application is May 15. Betty Wisda prepared a Call for Artists for 2020-2021 Exhibits at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. The Call for Artists will be distributed to local and regional artists during the week of April 6. She has requested the Call for Artists be posted on the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery webpage as well as a featured article in the "Rockville Reports" May issue. The deadline to submit an application is May 15.
- Betty Wisda is working with the contract specialist of Gable Company to obtain the signed City of Rockville Standard Contract Addendum, the certificate of insurance, and the proposal for the conceptual drawings of the attachment to the concrete walls for the Underpass at Park Road Art Project. Upon receipt of these items, she will submit the items to the City Attorney's Office staff to obtain the signatures of the City Manager and City Clerk. Upon receipt of the signed contract, she will submit the paperwork to the Procurement Division to issue a Purchase Order. Beth O'Connell, Project Manager from Gable Company, has introduced herself virtually to Andy Lett and Betty Wisda. Upon receipt of the Purchase Order, she will schedule a survey of the underpass.
- The "Good Versus Evil" concert by the Rockville Concert Band has been cancelled on April 19 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre due to COVID-19.
- The Rockville Art League Juried Members' Show is scheduled for May 17 through June 26 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

- The "Songs of Hope and Peace" concert by the Rockville Chorus has been cancelled on May 17 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre due to COVID-19. On
- The Rockville Concert Band and the Rockville Chorus will not perform a concert prior to the Memorial Day Ceremony since Hometown Holidays and the Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade has been cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Upon opening of the City-owned facilities, the Rockville Concert Band will begin rehearsals for the concert for Community Band Day scheduled on June 6.
- Upon opening of the City-owned facilities, the Rockville Civic Ballet will begin rehearsals for the summer production that is scheduled on July 25 and July 26 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- Mayor and Council FY2021 budget discussion is scheduled for April 13, 2020 starting at 6:00 pm.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- The Call for Artists for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center and the Rockville Gateway Art Projects have been posted on the City of Rockville's website and the American for the Arts' website on April 6. The application deadline is May 15, 2020.
- The link to the City of Rockville's website and the pdf.files of the Call for Artists were also distributed to the Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network listserv.
- The link to the City of Rockville's website and the pdf.files of the Call for Artists were distributed to 50 local, regional, and national public art managers to promote the Call for Artists.
- The Call for Artists will appear in the Maryland State Arts Council's newsletter in May.
- Betty Wisda submitted the contract, the certificate of insurance, and the proposal from Gable Design and Graphics Company for the Underpass at Park Road to the City Attorney's Office so the attorney can obtain the signatures of the City Manager and the City Clerk. Upon the receipt of these items, she will submit these items to the Procurement Department to issue the Purchase Order.
- Betty Wisda will begin preparing the Call for Artists for the tree carving art project at David Scull and for forming the Artist Nomination Committee.
- Repairs to the Crossroads sculpture in town center should be completed soon.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Arts Summit Planning

- Chairperson Jesse said the sub-committee is in a holding pattern. It may be a long time but when things go back to normal or the new normal, they will try again. He wants to keep Creatives Summit postponed and not cancelled. Karen wondering what the new normal will look like and if the things we were focusing on before will be different. Patricia suggested a big zoom meeting and break out

into topic sub-groups. Her idea was tabled to a later sub-committee meeting.
Patricia to set up the subcommittee meeting on a Virtual Creatives Summit.

Re: Old Business

- None

Re: New Business

- None

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. On Wednesday, May 13, 2020 location TBD.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.