

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Members Present: Karen Askin, Francis Bevington, Therese Capal, Patricia Dubroof, Howie Jung, Melissa Law, Brian Rogers, Rosemary Storey

Members Absent: Connor Lee

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala - absent

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

Guests Present: Susan Main, Artist, Instructor, Consultant at VisArts

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 as written for the April 12, 2022 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- No report

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Karen was recovering from running the 7th Annual Rockville Arts Festival and it has rained every year.
- Andy shared the letter Karen presented to the Mayor and Council on behalf of the commission regarding the Arts coordinator position. She emphasized CAC support for the new Arts position, which is long overdue and critically important. The letter recommends that the position be placed under Recreation and Parks instead of the City Manager's office for best success with the support of Recreation staff.
- The Mayor and Council passed the FY23 budget on Monday, May 9, and the new arts position is budgeted under the City Manager's office.

Re: Staff Report

- Under the direction of Dr. Juan Gallastegui, the Rockville Concert Band presented the "Music for an Anniversary" concert on April 10 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Dr. Robert Tennyson, Dr. Vincent Patterson, and John Saint Amour. Former Music directors conducted musical sections to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Rockville Concert Band. The world premiere of "The Year 2020" by Dutch composer Johan de Meij, the commissioned music composition to honor lives lost to COVID-19 and hope for the future, was performed by the band. The internationally renowned composer attended the concert and made remarks to the audience. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Dr. Juan Gallastegui, commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Rockville Concert Band and the Mayor and Council's appreciation of the band for presenting quality music to the Rockville community over the years.
- Arts Division was awarded a Public Art Conservation Grant of \$22,127 from the Maryland State Arts Council.
- The "Meet the Artists" for the "Rockville Art League Members' Juried Spring Show" will be held from 1:30-3:30 on Sunday, May 15 at Glenview Mansion Art gallery. The exhibit will be on display through June 24 in the art gallery.
- Betty Wisda, staff liaison, attended the virtual meeting of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival planning committee on April 26.
- The meetings for the Art in Public Places Committee and the Art in Public Places (Temporary) Committee were held virtual on Wednesday, May 4.
- Under the direction of Linda Garrettson and accompanied by Sasha Beresovsky, the Rockville Chorus will perform "Singing All Together A Celebration" at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 22 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- The Rockville Concert Band and the Rockville Chorus will perform a concert at 9 a.m. On Monday, May 30 for the Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade in Rockville Town Square.

Re: Guest Speaker, Susan Main

- Susan Main, artist, instructor, and Curatorial and Gallery program consultant with VisArts, presented "Public Art in Rockville Is?" Susan shared her experience in public and private art and insight and potential opportunities to engage the community and promote art in the community. Susan says we are in a transitional time, and it is an excellent time to reassess what we consider to be public art. Karen invited Susan to the meeting to inspire us to think bigger and think about what we can do with and for our citizens.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Past Matters will begin the restoration work on "William Gibbs" by Charlotte Lees located on Gibbs Street in Rockville Town Square and "ColorPlay" by Stephen Canneto situated at the Village Green Park in Falls Grove in June. They will be using the \$22,127 conservation grant funds designated for these sculptures.

- Swim Center Art Project is coming soon after several months of supply delays. The artist, Matthew Geller said the metal fabricator and the fiberglass fabricator are now in communication to begin installation soon.
- Mayor and Council unanimously approved that the Skate Park Art Project be awarded to Christian Benefiel and Ryan McKibbin of 731 Studios at a cost of \$14,580 with some additional requirements
 - Create an interpretive sign about the artwork.
 - Include the need to wear a helmet in the signage.
- In reviewing the information 731 Studios, the artist's recommendation is for a one-color. Using a version of zephyr blue. The color is inspired by the Zephyr Competition Team colors from the 1970's. An additional request is to exchange one of the iconic skaters with a female skater.
- Staff is working with artist Paul Walco to develop ways to salvage a couple of tree carvings he created 4 to 5 years ago that are starting to disintegrate. The bottom of the tree is rotting with the three bears at Horizon Hill Park, and they are considering cutting down the tree to salvage the artwork and possibly mount the sculpture on a platform to keep it in the park. The tree sculpture at Montrose Park also needs a new coat of sealant.
- The Rockville Metro Station, Temporary Bus Shelters Art Project, continues to move more slowly than anticipated. We are concerned the artwork would not stay up long enough to make it worth the time for the artist. The draft agreement between the City of Rockville and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Art in Transit Program is going through a lengthy review process with legal departments. WMATA wants complete indemnification for artwork. Staff will be following up with the legal team. Karen asked if we could create a standardized master agreement, so we don't have to go through the approval process every time with WMATA.
- The new AIPP Temporary Art Subcommittee members: Howie, Rosemary, Frances, and Betty, met on Monday, May 4. With four main agenda items were to define temporary art, locations, set expectations, process, and timelines.
- Karen and Frances met to start the review process of the City's AIPP implementation plan. The plan is updated every five years.

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 being held virtually and in person at Rockville Town Square 2-4 p.m. on June 26. Karen is looking for two volunteers to help staff run the arts and crafts table at the event. FRIT is working on adding a light tunnel to the Pride Celebration from June 24 through 26 in the town center. There are two performers scheduled and the organizers are seeking sponsors. They hope that the Mayor and Council members can attend the celebration.

Re: Old Business

- Motion made for Karen to write a letter to Mayor and Council requesting the City Manager allow the CAC to submit suggestions and review the job description for the new Arts position.

Re: New Business

- REDI has create a new website <https://explorerockville.org/>.
- Karen would like to invite Cindy Stewart and possibly Amanda Bozeman, the website host, to join a future meeting of the CAC for an overview of the new website and see how to get the art groups in Rockville onto the website. Patricia suggested sending an email out to the list of arts groups, making them aware of the new website and offering to help them or possibly inviting the artist groups to the meeting.

Re: Announcements

- None

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 9:16 p.m.