

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

**Cultural Arts Commission**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 8, 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

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

Guests Present: Rob DiSpirito, City Manager  
Cindy Stewart Rivarde, REDI CEO  
Richelle Wilson, REDI Deputy Director  
Amanda Bosland, REDI Communications Director  
Alice Nappy, VisArts Executive Director

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 May 11, 2022 meeting.

**Re: Councilmember Report**

Mayor and Council passed the FY23 budget. Overall, Councilmember Pierzchala expressed mixed feelings about the budget.

- Positives include several positions, including the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Arts positions.
- Concerning are numerous high-dollar Capital Improvement Projects, such as 6 Taft Court, King Farm Homestead, and Swim Center.
- The City needs to start planning for CIPs that are more than five years out.
- Mayor and Council approved the artwork for the Skate Park. They didn't mandate helmets on the art but added additional signage that helmets are required. Councilmember Pierzchala thanked the AIPP committee for putting together such an excellent presentation and bringing the artist to the meeting. Swim center work is still in progress.
- The CAC should pay attention to the 2040 Master Plan zoning ordinates coming down the pike. Some good for Arts.
- Councilmember Pierzchala recently attended a Mayor and Council retreat. During their discussion, the Mayor and Council want to develop a plan for RedGate during this term.

**Re: Chairperson's Report**

- No report.

**Re: Staff Report**

- The "Meet the Artists" for the "Rockville Art League Members' Juried Spring Show" was held on Sunday, May 15, at the 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 Planning Committee of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival, the Annual Meeting, and Martina Mastandrea's presentation of "Echoes of Silent Movie Age: F. Scott Fitzgerald on the Silver Screen (1920-1926)" on the evening of Tuesday, May 17.
- Under the direction of Linda Garrettson and accompanied by Sasha Beresovsky, the Rockville Chorus performed a "Singing All Together A Celebration" on Sunday, May 22, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and on Monday, May 23, at the Rockville Senior Center.
- Over Memorial Day weekend the City hosted Hometown Holidays: A Community Gathering on Saturday, May 28 and 29. The event include a total of 17 performers on two stages. The Victorian Lyric Opera Company performed on Saturday.
- The Rockville Concert Band and the Rockville Chorus performed a concert on Monday, May 30, for the Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade in Rockville Town Square.
- The City of Rockville Arts Division was 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 Fallsgrove. The work will be completed by Past Matters, LLC. from Thursday, June 23, through Friday, July 1.
- Deputy City Manager Angela Judge will be moving on to an important out-of-state family/professional commitment, we thank her and extend our very best wishes to she and her husband Warren for health and happiness in their exciting new endeavors.

**Re: Guest Speaker, Rob DiSpirito**

- In 2018 the "Study of Arts and Culture: City of Rockville" was funded to provide direction on enhancing Arts and Culture within the City. The lead consultant, Martin, recommended establishing a position dedicated to arts and cultural development who would "report directly to senior administration within the City," thus allowing for efficient collaboration between departments.
- Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito discussed the process of creating the new Arts, Culture, and History position and where the City should place it. Mayor and Council approved the position for the FY23 budget. Mayor and Council voted to add the concept of "history" to the title to be Culture, Arts, and History Coordinator. This position is not a director-level position. However, following discussions, it may need to be classified as higher, and as the City Manager, Rob has the flexibility to make those changes.
- Rob said he would create the job description and would appreciate input from CAC. Rob has job description examples sent by Andy and is glad to hear back about what precisely the CAC would like the position to accomplish. Once we move to the recruitment process, it would be helpful to have representation from the Arts community on the interview panel.

**Re: Rockville Economic Development Inc.(REDI), presented on ExploreRockville.org**

- Amanda Bosland, Communications from REDI presented the newly created Explore Rockville website <https://www.Explorerockville.org>.
- REDI created the new website in conjunction with Visit Montgomery.
- The site is easy to navigate and has tools that allow art groups to publicize their events in Rockville.
- CAC will email the list of art groups who previously presented to the CAC, making them aware of the new website.

**Re: Arts in Public Places – Significant Works of Art**

- Betty reported that they did not meet in June.
- Thank you to the sub-committee members for their assistance in presenting the Skate Park Art design to the Mayor and Council.
- 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.

**Re: Arts in Public Places – Temporary Works of Art**

- The Temporary Works of Art subcommittee didn't have a chance to meet. Frances developed and engaging presentation ideas that she researched on temporary art.

**Re: Human Rights Commission**

- Brian reported HRC held a meeting on May 25 with guest speaker Frederika Grainger who talked about mental health in schools.
- A virtual PRIDE event was held on Sunday, June 5, 2022. There were three break-out discussion rooms, including one on how the media discusses LGBTQIA.
- The 6th Annual Pride Celebration event is also being held in person at Rockville Town Square 2-4 p.m. on June 26.
- VisArts will market through FB and media outlets. VisArts will have tables for picture frame art projects. The VisArts Community Visibility Lab will also be open that day, allowing people to do art projects. Robin from VisArts is coordinating the craft tables if you want to volunteer. SSL hours are available for teens.
- The student ambassador program did not receive any applicants. The CAC can discuss the future direction in the fall.

**Re: Old Business**

**Re: New Business**

- A motion was made and approved for Karen to write a letter to the Mayor and Council requesting the City Manager include the CAC in the creation and/or review of the Arts, Culture, and History job description.
- Mark Pierzchala mentioned website shows three vacancies in CAC. We have not received any applicants lately.

- This makes it harder to get a quorum with fewer members.
- Andy recommended sending an email to the Arts groups about the openings.

**Re: Announcements**

- Patricia reminded everyone that the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival is in the process of accepting shorts stores at [www.FSFitzgerald.org](http://www.FSFitzgerald.org).

**Re: Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

**Re: Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.