

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes
August 12, 2020

Members Present: Karen Askin, Liliane Blom,
Patricia Dubroof, Melissa Law,
Jesse Marciniak, Howie Jung, Helen Aberger,
Connor Lee, Tim Nixon

Members Absent: Therese Capal, Gary Gill

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala, absent

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Laura Creech, Betty Wisda

Guests Present: None

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the July 8, 2020 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Councilmember Pierzchala was absent and sent the following report.
 - Mayor and Council are on summer break. The first meeting back will be September 14.
 - Mayor and Council approved the funding for the VisArts proposal to put art on some empty store fronts. There was quite a discussion on it. The proposal passed 3-2.
 - The complimentary VisArts proposed art installations were not approved. The City Manager did not recommend it.
 - Mayor and Council will engage on the budget for FY21 (current year) shortly after return. It's difficult at this point in time to know if further cuts will need to be made.
 - Funds to secure King Farm were approved for FY21, and this expenditure will move forward.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Karen announced that Tim Nixon would be resigning his commission following this meeting. This now leaves two vacancies.

Re: Staff Report

Staff reported the following items.

- Recreation department has been focused on providing activities that keep community members as safe as possible by holding most programs virtually and in-person programs outdoors.
- Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan: CAC comments have been submitted to Tim Chesnutt and Karla Sheehi, who are working closely with the consultant to determine how best to incorporate those comments into the strategic plan for Mayor and Council approval. If possible, Andy will share the plan with commission members for a chance to review/edit before the final version goes to Mayor and Council. The projected timeline for submission to the Mayor and Council is October as the September 14 agenda is packed full.
- Members of the Montgomery Art Association picked up their artwork from the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery on Tuesday, July 14. Lisa Sieg and Patrick Sieg, Rockville Art League Board members; as well as Kathy Tynan and Anastasia Walsh, Montgomery Art Association Board members; were a tremendous help to Betty Wisda during the removal of the 80 works of art from the gallery in a very safe and efficient manner, while observing the mandatory guidelines of masks and social distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Betty Wisda, staff liaison to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference, Inc., participated in the remotely planning meeting on Thursday, July 16 for the final preparations for the upcoming virtual festival scheduled for fall 2020.
- The memorandum for concurrence by Rob DiSpirito, City Manager, for the award of \$4,000 to Kris Connors for the carving of a Red-Tailed Hawk for the cedar tree at David Scull Park was signed on Monday, July 20. Betty Wisda worked with the City Attorneys' office to prepare the Contract for Artist Services for Construction of Artwork at David Scull Park between the City or Rockville and Kris Connors.
- The finalists are creating their site-specific proposals to present to the Artist Nomination Committee for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project in late August.
- The finalists are creating their site-specific proposals to present to the Artist Nomination Committee for the Rockville Gateway Art Project in late August.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- In addition to the information provided by in the staff report regarding Arts in Public Places project updates, Betty Wisda reported that she is working with the Gable Sign and Graphics Company to finalize the drawings and answer additional

questions that were raised regarding the Park Road Underpass project. Those questions include a cost estimate of the framework as well as how easily the framework can be taken apart.

- Betty is working on a proposal to request funding for the maintenance of public art projects so that improvements and repairs can be made to existing art projects. Plans to submit by Monday, August 17.
- Karen asked Betty if she was aware of any grants available for small/short-term art installation projects. The idea would be to fund local artist to do art installations on vacant storefront windows in Town Square to draw more people to town center and enhance the arts.
 - VisArts had suggested hiring artists to create artwork for vacant storefront windows and Federal Reality had signaled they would cover the fabrication and installation costs and the City concurred; however, Karen would like to see more work displayed with a push for greater funding.
 - Betty was not aware of any short-term grants. Most Maryland and national grants are for long-term art installations roughly 20 years or more.
 - Patricia recommended looking into the Rockville Economic Development to see if they would support this type of project.
 - Andy asked if artist could to do mini galleries inside the storefronts using just the window space.
 - Howard would like to see more performing artists and suggested they could be involved with window art/unveilings.
 - Andy responded that due to Montgomery COVID-19 requirements, the City is not permitting events over 50 people. Crowd sizes and containment become a challenge when permitting outdoor performances.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Arts Summit Planning

- No report.

Re: Old Business

- Tim Nixon made suggestions for rewriting of the City's CAC website page from the previous CAC meeting. The CAC discussed and made additional suggestion during the meeting. Here is the final suggestion:

Eleven Rockville residents volunteer their time and talent to celebrate and promote the fine and performing arts that reflect the city's diversity. In addition, the Commissioners help to incubate and foster additional artistic and cultural events through their advisory function to the Mayor and City Council. The Commission takes seriously its goal of making Rockville a vibrant arts destination. Many Commissioners are artists

themselves, and they serve for overlapping three-year terms. We encourage community members of all backgrounds to take part and reflect Rockville's diverse population.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Commission is to recommend public art installations to the Mayor and City Council. This task is performed by the Art in Public Places subcommittee. You can visit some of these artworks virtually through this site.

- The CAC made a motion to sending recommended the webpage rewrite for PIO approval. The rewrite was unanimously approved.
- Karen will reach out to Hjarman Cordero from the Community Services Department to invite him to a future meeting, preferably in September.
- Connor is representing the CAC at the Human Rights Commission meetings and attend his first meeting last month and plans to attend their next meeting. He hopes to have more to report on at the next meeting.
- Melissa Law was unanimously appointed as the new Glenview Mansion Advisory Committee liaison vacated by Tim Nixon's departure.

Re: New Business

- Patricia reported that the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival will take place online this year on September 24 and October 2 and 3.
- Gratitude and well wishes were expressed to both Jesse and Tim for their service and dedication to CAC.
- Karen requested for Commission members to think about how we can get the CAC to reflect the diversity of the residents of Rockville. If commissioner's know of a resident who may be interested in serving on the CAC they should talk with them or forward their contact information to Karen.

Re: Announcements

None

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.