

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
September 9, 2020

Members Present: Karen Askin, Therese Capal,
Patricia Dubroof, Melissa Law,
Howie Jung, Connor Lee

Members Absent: Gary Gill, Liliane Blom, Helen Aberger,

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Hjarmon Cordero

Guests Present: Frances Bevington

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 August 12, 2020 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Councilmember Pierzchala reported:
 - Mayor and Council was on recess for six weeks.
 - On November 2, Mayor and Council will have their final discussion on the Boards and Commissions task report.
 - The task force makes recommendations and rates several boards relevancy.
 - Mark said it would be beneficial for CAC to send any statements prior to November 2 meeting.
 - The commission and Councilmember Pierzchala discussed the inclusion of QR codes for performing artist to complement the visual artist window covering for vacant storefronts.
 - Visarts will be moving forward with their proposed plan that included paying artist for their work.
 - Visarts and Federal Reality originally agreed to six windows but has since been lowered to 3.
 - Councilmember Pierzchala noted he would like to project to go beyond three windows.
 - King Farm was an additional suggested location for artwork.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Cindy Stewart and David Levy are in the early stages of an arts and entertainment district designation for Rockville.
- Karen asked Cindy and David to come to our next meeting to see how the Cultural Arts Commission could become involved.

Re: Staff Report

Staff reported the following items.

- A signed Contract for Services for Construction of Artwork at David Scull Park between the City of Rockville and Kris Connors was submitted to Procurement Department to issue a Purchase Order.
- The finalists presented their site-specific proposals for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project to the Artist Nomination Committee on August 25.
- The finalists presented their site-specific proposals for the Rockville Gateway Art Project to the Artist Nomination Committee on August 27.
- Eight members of the Rockville German Band were recorded on September 9 at the Croydon Creek Nature Center for use at the virtual Rocktoberfest on October 3.

Guest Speaker: Hjarman Cordero, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator with the City. Works with neighborhoods, HOAs, Census partners, food distribution centers and more in the city. Provides training, and workshops.

- The Cultural Arts Commission discussed how to increase the diversity of the Commission. Currently there are two open position.
- Hjarman shared his willingness to help the Cultural Arts commission improve its diversity by reaching out to his contacts in the various communities of the city.
- When reaching out to be more inclusive of diversity how a message is presented is as important as the message. We don't want to intimidate residents.
- Creating a more dynamic website with visual images of work being done by Commission will help recruit individuals.
- The group also discussed the inclusion of a student seat on the Cultural Arts Commission to encourage younger civic engagement.
- The group discussed making a position description that Hjarman could distribute. Karen made a motion to have Melissa and send a "classified ad" that is welcoming, dynamic, inclusive and speaks to the Cultural Arts Commissions desire to have all groups represented on the Cultural Arts Commission and was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Working with City Clerk's office on Proclamation for Arts and Humanities Month in October. Patricia agreed to accept the proclamation on behalf of the Cultural Arts Commission.
- Grant application was submitted to the Maryland State Arts Council to fund the conservation of seven public works of art.
- Kris Connors plans to begin carving the Cedar tree stump at David Scull Park during the week of September 14.
- Jack Lunkenheimer of Gable Company will submit answers for questions from staff regarding the shop drawings for framework attachment to concrete walls for the Underpass at Park Road Art Project in September.

- The finalists presented the site-specific proposals for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project to the Artist Nomination Committee on August 25. The Committee reviewed and selected Matthew Geller of New York, New York for further consideration.
- The finalists presented the site-specific proposals for the Rockville Gateway Art Project to the Artist Nomination Committee on August 27. The Committee reviewed and selected David Hess of Phoenix, Maryland for further consideration.
- Staff would like to present recommendation to Mayor and Council on October 19th. To do so the Cultural Arts Commission would need to hold a special meeting.
- Karen motion for a special meeting of the Cultural Arts Commission at 7:00 pm on September 30, 2020 to review the Artist Nomination Committees recommendation and approve the recommendation to go to Mayor and Council. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Arts Summit Planning

- No report.

Re: Old Business

- No report.

Re: New Business

- Patricia noted that the VisitRockville.gov website needs to be cleaned up and is out of date. The City's website needs to be cleaned up.
- Vacancy listings should to be included in the Rockville Reports.
- Councilmember Pierzchala acknowledge that the Mayor and Council did not approve funding for website design that was request for FY2021. Staff is working with old technology that needs to be updated.

Re: Announcements

- Visarts will begin installation along east middle lane. Repurposed 200 canvases and created a homage to the City's trees and gardens.
- Visarts was able to obtain space formerly occupied by Sunday Kitchen and Bath from Federal Realty. The space will support students at MCPS and Montgomery College.
- Create will start on Thursday nights at 5:00 pm. Online registration is required.

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.