

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes
September 11, 2019

Members Present: Karen Askin
Liliane Blom
Therese Capal
Gary Gill
Tim Nixon
Mary Baltimore
Howie Jung

Members Absent: Patricia Dubroof, Alicia Martin, Jesse Marciniak

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala (absent)

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Laura Creech, Betty Wisda

Karen Askin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes for the August 14, 2019 meeting.

Re: Chairperson's Report

Alicia Martin has relocated temporarily from Rockville but plans to move back and will remain on the Cultural Arts Commission.

Re: Councilmember Report

No report.

Re: Staff Report

Staff reported the following items.

- Met with strategic plan consultant. They are in the process of finalizing data and will present the results at rockourfuture.com. Feedback can be submitted on the site.
- Andy briefly went over special events happening in September and October. Held September 11 memorial. Volunteer appreciation day will be held on Sept. 12.
- At the August 22 meeting, the Mayor and Council approved keeping Hometown Holidays as a two-day event.
- The Rockville Concert Band started rehearsals for the 2019-2020 season on August 2 in the Social Hall.
- The Cultural Arts Commission met with Martin Cohen to comment on the draft of the Arts and Culture Study on August 26.

- The Art in Public Places Committee met to discuss pertinent information regarding the Gateway Art Project and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project on August 27.
- Auditions for the Rockville Chorus will be held on Mondays, September 9, and September 16 at the Social Hall.
- The opening of the exhibit of the Art League of Germantown will be held on Sunday, September 22.
- Andy shared budget timeline for 2021. Budget Kick off is first week of October. Around first week of November city staff present their budget to Finance. They evaluate until mid-January and then discuss every cost center. Last year they did not approve any enhancements due to lack of money. Andy doesn't not know what will happen this year. Proposed budgets are presented in Feb. 2020. Public hearings held in March. March timeframe is when suggestions for new budget items can be made. He noted that as a commission we would need to go to the Mayor and Council for funds.

Re: Task Force/Committee Updates

Art in Public Places

- Betty Wisda presented the drawings and proposal for the Montrose Art Project. The committee selected the tree carving artist, Paul Waclo who also did the tree carving at Horizon Hill Park. He will carve a helix out the stump and then attach sports equipment carved from wood to the stomp. APP approved the design for him to be paid \$5,000 for the project. A motion was carried and approved the design and monies. Tim also suggested a plaque to be placed near by in several languages.
- Upcoming AIPP projects include selecting the 40th Anniversary of AIPP site, which has a \$250,000 budget. Committee to plan for 1% of construction fees allocated for Swim Center renovation for that project.

Culture and Arts Organization Sub-committee

- Discussed possible dates of Feb. 22-23 or March 21-22 for the Arts and Culture Symposium. The March dates were chosen because of space availability at F. Schott Fitzgerald Theatre and member availability. Karen suggested that maybe VisArts could host the event. Karen also suggested reaching out to the groups and asking their preferences for times and topics and how many would attend.
- Cultural events and arts calendar task force members Gary Gill, Alicia Martina and Tim Nixon met and determined they need to go through the process of asking the City for funding and assistance. They also looked at 50 other cities and shared the websites for Omaha, NE and Tulsa, OK. Gary suggested looking at cities with a population and affluence similar to Rockville.
- Gary purchased the domain Visit Rockville.org. Tim presented a mock-up of how the website could look. Sections would have a different colors for sponsorships, and events calendar (which could link to a google calendar and more). Liliane suggested training the partners to list their own events. One person from each organization. Mary mentioned that they tried this last year and the partners didn't

have anyone trained. She also tried to contact Montgomery College to find an intern to work on the site with no luck. Tim suggested that the CAC members could post the events. Karen wondered how Montgomery County handles it and suggest looking in to their procedure.

- Andy recommended Commission draft a letter to the Mayor and Council asking for funds to be allocated for arts calendar website and summit. Andy said the calendar could fall into the category of outreach recommended by Martin's study. Karen asked that the website be developed as much as possible before presenting to Mayor and Council. A working draft from Martin was sent out by Betty August 23. Andy will share financials with the commission.

Re: Old Business

- No discussion

Re: New Business

- Karen to send the original Laws of Rockville – Responsibilities 4.20 under Chapter 4. Along with the newly approved revised version of CAC responsibilities to commissioners. It has not been updated since the 70's.
- Karen to send a list of questions to Andy for Rob DiSpirito ahead of the meeting on October 16.

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 in the Blossom Room at the Rockville Senior Center.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.