

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

October 14, 2020

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| Members Present: | Karen Askin, Patricia Dubroof, Melissa Law, Howie Jung, Connor Lee, Therese Capal, Gary Gill, Liliane Blom, Helen Aberger, |
| Members Absent: | None |
| Councilmember: | Mark Pierzchala |
| Staff Present: | Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Laura Creech |
| Guests Present: | Cindy Stewart, Rockville Economic Development Inc., Chief Executive Officer David Levy, City of Rockville, Assistant Director for Planning and Economic Development Prospective applicants: Francis Evington, Gabrielle Zwii, Elisabeth Fischer, Robert Summers-Berger and Craig Meklir |

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 September 9, 2020 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Not much to report. The budget is in good shape right now. Town Center is a continuous issue. Held countless meetings on it with no easy solutions. We need more residents in town center to help make businesses thrive.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- No report.

Re: Special Guest Discussion

- Andy introduced David Levy, Assistant Director for Planning and Economic Development, who is the point person working together with Cindy Rivarde at

REDI to bring retail success to Rockville town center and assisting in planning for potential sites for an Arts and Cultural District.

- Will be holding a discussion on January 4 regarding the branding of areas to be Arts and Cultural Districts.
- Maryland state designations are more difficult to obtain, needing 100 continuous square acres to be designated as an Arts and Cultural district and receive the tax credits. It would give us visibility on a state level however it's easier to brand as Arts District instead of state designation.
- Currently looking at Town Square and Stonestreet for the Arts District.
- Additional areas of interest for an Arts District or Marketing area would be East Gude or areas near the Metro.
- Group was supportive of business improvement districts and urban renewal partnerships in concept.
- January 4 Mayor and Council will be discussing neighborhood branding.

Re: Staff Report

- Rehearsals for Rockville Concert Band are being held on Tuesdays on the clubhouse deck at Redgate Park while the weather holds.
- Chris Connors completed the Red-tailed hawk tree sculpture at David Scull Park.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival was held virtually on Oct. 4.
- Patricia Dubroof accepted an award in recognition of Arts and Humanities Month on behalf of the Cultural Arts Commission.
- Submitting both the Gateway and Swim and Fitness Center Art Projects to Mayor and Council on the agenda for approval on November 9.
- We received an email from Wheaton Art District - Arts Parade asking if we would be interested in having them come to Rockville.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- November 9 We will be presenting the Rockville Gateway project and the Swim Center Locker Room project.
- Betty needs to meet with members regarding Underpass and Skate Park Art Projects.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Arts Summit Planning

- Resident Companies presenting business plans on their \$5,000 in grant money. Helen Aberger will be presenting on behalf of the Victorian Lyric Opera Company at the Mayor and Council meeting on Oct. 26. Asking for four CAC members to attend in support.

Re: Human Rights Commission

- Connor Lee attended the Human Rights Commission meeting on Sept. 23. The primary discussion was on diversity and inclusion among high school students in Rockville.
 - Plan to hold workshops for students on how to talk about cultural differences with family and friends.
 - Gabrielle will be leading one discussion on TV shows and how they represent different cultures and groups.
 - Human Rights Commission has a program for student ambassadors. Two students are selected from each high school to be involved in activities and discussions on diversity and culture. They will be involved in commission discussions.
 - Also discussed plans for a “Coming Out Day”, an LGBT event in collaboration with CAC and HRC.

Re: Old Business

- Gary Gill has resigned his commission and tonight is his last meeting. Gary said he is willing to maintain the VisitRockville.org website. Patricia said she is willing to help as well. Andy will check to see what can be done and circle back to Gary.

Re: New Business

- The next meeting will be held on Veteran’s Day - November 11 at 7:00 pm.

Re: Announcements

- VisArts Garden of Sustainability murals on East Middle Lane was vandalized a couple of days after installation.
- VisArts holding Empty Bowls fundraiser in-person on Nov. 19 from 5-8 p.m.
- Moving forward with plans to hold the Rockville Arts Festival on the first weekend in May 2021.
- Welcome back Liliane.

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.