

# CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

## Cultural Arts Commission

### Minutes

November 11, 2020

Members Present: Helen Aberger, Karen Askin, Francis Bevington, Liliane Blom, Therese Capal, Patricia Dubroof, Howie Jung, Melissa Law, Connor Lee, Robert Summers-Berger, Heather Thompson

Members Absent: None

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Gabrielle Zwi, Rockville Human Rights Commission

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#### **Re: Approval of the Minutes**

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the October 14, 2020 meeting.

#### **Re: Councilmember Report**

- Resident companies did an outstanding job of sharing what they do and how they are proceeding with grant money—working on the FY22 budget.
- Gateway project went before Mayor and Council was not approved but deferred. One councilmember cited concern regarding community outreach, size and safety concerns, and the project's cost. A couple of the councilmember thought the optics of spending \$250,000 during a pandemic was not appropriate. Those council members understood the City allocated money specifically towards the Public Art projects.

#### **Re: Chairperson's Report**

- Karen welcomed three new members to the commission: Heather Thompson, Robert Summers-Berger and Frances Bevington.

#### **Re: Staff Report**

- Rockville Concert Band held their last rehearsal at RedGate Park on October 27.
- Mayor & Council has deferred Gateway Project. Citing need for more community outreach and surveys. They also have more questions on placement, safety and height.

**Re: Arts in Public Places**

- Need to present answers to M&C for their questions regarding the Gateway Project. Some of those answers will need to come from the City Attorney's office and City Safety and Risk Manager.
- Betty to schedule a meeting with AIPP members regarding the upcoming Underpass at Park Road and Skate Park art projects and the conservation grant to MD State Arts Council for restoration works.
- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center art project will be presented to Mayor and Council in late Feb.-early March for approval.

**Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Creatives Summit Planning**

- Resident Companies presented business plans for their \$5,000 in grant money. Helen Aberger presented on behalf of the Victorian Lyric Opera Company at the Mayor and Council meeting on October 26.
- Need to reconvene a task force about virtual Rockville Creatives Summit via Zoom. Patricia Dubroof nominated Helen Aberger to chair the sub-committee task force, and Karen Askin seconded the motion.
- Andy suggested surveying the organizations to see how they are doing during the pandemic and if they would want to rejoin the new Rockville Creatives Summit.
- Howie offered to help Helen with summit.

**Re: Human Rights Commission**

- Connor Lee attended the Human Rights Commission meeting October 23. They are continually looking for opportunities for inter-community collaboration. Connor reported on the following:
  - The Human Rights Commission will hold a virtual Diversity and Inclusion Initiative Workshop on November 21. Workshop for Rockville high school and Montgomery College students on how to talk about cultural differences with family and friends.
  - Holding MLK Day event with pre-recorded speakers; Civic Rights Activists, Dr. Joyce Ann Ladner and A'Lelia Bundles.
  - Gabrielle Zwi to present information on the student ambassador program at the December 9 CAC meeting.

**Re: Old Business**

- None

**Re: New Business**

- Liz Ochuzar listened in on meeting and is interested in joining the commission.
- Andy Lett will be meeting with the Wheaton Arts Parade group about collaborating with their public art sculpture walk.
- The Victorian Lyric Opera Company is exploring potential outdoor performance locations at the Civic Center and RedGate Park. RedGate is considered a better option due to making up many of the postponed events at the Civic Center. VLOC will need to submit a Proof of Concept to City and check with special events staff about the possibility of holding shows there.

**Re: Announcements**

- Andy welcomed and thanked the new members for joining the commission. He appreciates everyone taking an active role and their valuable service to the community.

**Re: Next Meeting**

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

**Re: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.