

CITY OF DOVER

ARTS COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, Room 323
Meeting Date: Monday, June 5, 2023
Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Jane Hamor, Cliff Blake, Jon Nichols, Jacqueline Finnerty, Sarah Davidson, Yulia Rothenberg, Mike Lee, and Steve Bargdill (Literary Laureate)

Other: Donna Benton, Planning Director; Linnea Nemeth, City Council Liaison

Excused: Kim Hanson, Nancy Vawter, and Julia Kirchmer

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm / Land Acknowledgement read by J. Nichols

1. Citizens Forum

Jeff Bernstein; Susan Hannah; and Danielle Festa

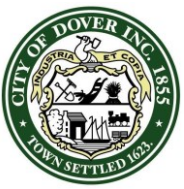
- a. Susan Hannah proposed to revive the Art Walk in Dover modeled on the way it is managed in Portsmouth, with businesses open and a flag or some sort of identifying way to tell they are part of the Art Walk. Suggested that it should be called something else rather than “walk” to avoid confusion.
- b. Some thoughts from Danielle who used to be one of the people helping with the previous iteration of the Art Walk in Dover.

2. Approval of May Minutes

Y. Rothenberg motioned to approve. C. Blake seconded. Vote: U/A

3. Project Updates

- a. **Literary Laureate** – Steve, was sworn in and waiting for final approval for his City email account. In the meantime, working on a variety of possible projects:
 - i. Meeting with Ottie Rule: 11 am tomorrow, 6/6
 - ii. Chris Upton, from Freethinkers Bookstore – Meeting with him to discuss ideas
 - iii. Josiah Adams – indie authors event in October, including: Amy Lockhardt at the library, possible Linnea Heartseeker event – one community, one book – getting enough copies of the same book is difficult
 - iv. Anne Williams author series next year
 - v. J. Nichols was very impressed with a young author he met at the Children’s Museum who already published a book and sales support a non-profit – he will get the name of the person
- b. **Graffiti Committee** – No new updates since Community Art Walls approved
- c. **400th Committee** – Cliff, they are doing a lot, Hiltons reunion at Hilton park; 60 floats at a parade 6/24; table at Apple Harvest; fund raising for the sculpture in the Waterfront Park
- d. **Waterfront Committee** – Jane, attended last meeting; architect presented on the footprint of the final design option of the pavilion building. Donna met with the architect.
- e. **HS Theatre** – Jane & Kim, met with Suzanne Weete to work on a project with the Mental Health Alliance and to meet a new person who is working on HS theater. Percussion: Sunday 11 am concert.
- f. **Community Trail** – Jacqueline, Community Art Wall MOU has been signed off on and needs invoice to pay for it by DAC. Donna will work with Recreation Department to issue the invoice.
- g. **Art Beat** – Jane, five businesses and eight artists; art has been hung at the businesses and at McConnell center for those who were not matched with a business to display their work. The opening was well attended, many of the artists and some community members and chamber representatives and DAC members were there. Great conversations. Suggestion to interview the artists and businesses about the value of this type of undertaking. Steve Bargdill offered to write the article.
- h. **Skateboard Park** – No new information at this time
- i. **Public Art Projects / Planning** – No new projects at this time
- j. **Ninja Turtles** – James Lane has been in contact with the artist, it will be fabricated after approval.
 - i. Work on event to celebrate the manhole cover installation, ideas include:
 - Strand Action Movie – Sarah to talk to Dan Demers
 - Cosplay communities – Jon reach out to JetPack Comics and connect with NT exhibit at Woodman
 - o Game Chamber
 - o Geeked Out Comics



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- Hold the event at Woodman and possibly virtual connection to Union St. to avoid crowds in small spaces
- Invite City and media to the event
- Hold scheduled manhole cover rubbings; sell for support of the event?
- Jane reach out to Ralph to invite to the event/celebration

- k. **Keep Dover Wild** – Jacqueline, was held on May 20th and seven businesses participated; working to schedule more paintings for the businesses that asked and there were not enough artists for
- l. **Racial Equity & Inclusion** – Linnea, to meet 4x per year; will report more at next meeting

4. Review & Report on 2023 Goals – No updates.

5. City Arts Grant

- 22-23 Appropriation budget balance: \$3,106.15 (After \$1,000 to Graffiti wall construction)
 - J. Hamor motioned to appropriate up to \$3,000.00 to the City Arts Grant recipients, M. Lee seconded. Vote: U/A
 - To disburse funds to the City Arts Grant recipients based on overall scores and comments from the DAC members (due this Friday to Cliff). The Executive Committee to make the final recommendations, and recipients (as well as funding levels) will be decided at the July meeting.
- Trust (Legacy Fund): \$2,487.00 (Keep for future projects.)

6. AEP6 Survey Status – Donna reported current total of 862 surveys!

- a. *Americans for the Arts Survey Update* - Next steps is identifying how to leverage all the hard work of doing the surveys after we receive the final report from AEP6 in October.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. AARP Grant – Unfortunately, we were informed that the AARP grant was not awarded. They reported that over 3,600 applications were received from communities nationwide. This is an annual grant opportunity that we can re-apply for in 2024.

8. Commission's Matters of Interest/Update

- a. Sarah – Marketing packet is in development
- b. Press release from Literary Laureate – Shared with group, looks great
- c. Grant applications review: Please submit your feedback to Cliff by Friday, June 9th
 - i. Cochecho Art Festival
 - ii. Woodman Museum
 - iii. D. Festa
 - iv. A. Allan

9. Adjourn

M. Lee motioned to adjourn at 8:18pm, J. Nichols seconded. Vote: U/A