



Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
 Meeting Location: McConnell Center Cafeteria  
 Meeting Date: 5-13-13  
 Meeting Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Attendees: Jake, Malone, Martha, Aimee, Mark Cuddy, Kim, Jane, Justine  
 Notes by Justine Roberts

1. Guest, Allan Krans

Alan Krauss, Dover City Attorney presented on open government regulations and answered questions from Commission members.

2. Minutes (Feb, March, April)

Several edits were noted. Malone motioned to approve the minutes with edits. Martha seconded the motion. All in favor.

3. Membership status / Alternates

Jane discussed a conversation she had with Ed about adding alternates to the Commission so that Aimee and Mark are able to vote on Commission business. According to a document of operating rules provided by Alan Krauss' office the Commission is able to amend its rules to allow for alternates, and Ed can bring the proposed change to the City Council for approval.

Questions: Do alternatives go through the nomination process and fill out an application and have an interview? If so, what is the timeline for having interviews completed?

NEXT STEPS:

- Jane said she will find the answer to that question.
- Mark and Aimee agreed to download and file the applications

Kim offered a motion to make the changes to the rules to allow for alternates. Justine seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

4. Surveys

- Creative Economy Survey (Jane)

Jane presented the work she and Justine completed with UNH Whitmore School economics students to create a creative economy survey. There were some great outcomes of this project including a definition for the creative economy, the design of a survey, and preliminary results. This was a tough project because creativity is hard to measure. Jane is exploring whether the UNH Survey Center will pick up the project and complete an economic impact study at the same time.

- Arts Commission survey collating (Aimee)

Aimee reviewed the results of the survey and key findings. The survey strongly indicates that Dover residents would like more cultural opportunities including music, festivals, performing arts, film and museums. Typical survey respondents already go to cultural events monthly and get most of their information from on-line sources such as websites



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and social media. They travel to Portsmouth most often, Dover second and Boston third. Dover received an overall rating of “good” but respondents would like more options and more variety. They are willing to pay some depending on the event or experience being offered. There was some discussion about whether the data was full enough for a presentation to City Council, but there was no clear conclusion at this time if that is the best next step.

#### NEXT STEPS:

- Jake agreed to create some graphs and charts to capture the data so that it can be posted on the Commission’s facebook page and shared with the Chamber and other local groups.
- Jake and Kim will also write up the findings in an article for Fosters. Kim will send the draft article to the Commission for input. When ready Jane will send it to Mike Gillis who will send it to Fosters on behalf of the City.
- Martha will send a TY to all survey respondents

#### 5. Strand Theatre Update (Jane)

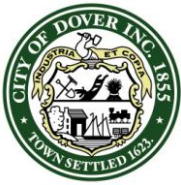
Jane updated the Commission on the Strand Task Force’s progress in hiring a consultant to complete the Feasibility Study project being run by the Chamber. The selected firm is Arts Market from Bozeman, MT. They have great comparative experience working nationally which is useful as the Strand is similar to a number of other buildings around the country. Structural Engineering will be donated to the project. Civilworks has a member on the Task Force who is helping define the scope for engineering assessment including parking, structural integrity, handicap accessibility and HVAC.

The Task Force is relatively small, with a larger Advisory Committee and public meetings to ensure broad participation from the community. The Task Force is really project management and logistics. Not advocacy. Jane encouraged all Commission members to attend public meetings and be part of the process of community and stakeholder input.

The goal of the Feasibility Study are to understand whether the Strand could succeed as a community arts facility, if so what the business model would need to be and the likely operating budget, as well as the cost to open the building, and next steps.

Question: Does the building have to be fully accessible? Answer: Yes, the Certificate of Occupancy will require certain features be upgraded.

Question: What role does the restaurant play in the project? Answer: It is anticipated that the restaurant is a key part of the business plan.



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Question: Save the Strand is holding meetings and talking about the building. What is the relationship between that group and the Task Force? Answer: The Task Force is a project management committee administering a grant awarded to the Chamber from the NHCF. Save the Strand is an advocacy group working to bring public use back to the building. The Save the Strand members will be interviewed as part of the feasibility study process but are a separate community group.

6. Exhibit Guidelines for Artists (Kim, Malone)  
Malone reported that no progress had been made since the previous meeting.
7. Business Cards status (Kim)  
Kim has new artwork to share and will send around via email
8. Coheco Arts Festival Arts Rock project (Malone)  
Malone reported that there are 8 instruments being created as part of this initiative. The committee working on this project has not finalized details of whether there is a scavenger hunt, or an auction at the end of the summer. Mike Mengers, from the Chamber, says the plan is to put any funds raised into a music scholarship. Related to this, the Coheco Arts Festival will be changing their name to the Coheco River Music Series.

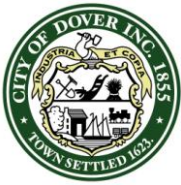
Malone had been approached about creating public art for the Festival this Summer (2013) but there has not yet been progress. Creating the artwork and getting permissions is a 4-5m timeline so at this time there is no way to do it.

The Commission agreed that the Yarn Installation should not be repeated. Justine also reported that the Museum is actively fundraising to transform the Museum's façade into a public art display space. The Arts Commission and Museum agreed to talk about how to alternate projects and coordinate installation.

Malone also reported that the Festival organizers are looking for volunteers. IF you volunteer you get a table.

#### NEXT STEPS:

Malone will find out if there are dates available that work for the Arts Commission to volunteer.



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9. Outreach reports (All)

Aimee talked about the Theater unmasked plans for the new Children’s Festival, as well as plans for a series of business workshops in presentation skills. Martha had recently attended an open house at the Woodman Institute and was excited by the energy there.

Dover Arts Market – Starting Sundays June 2.

Other Business – Nicole Wilson approached Gary Bannon about renting space in the McConnell Center to be shared artist and studio space. The rent is \$20,000/yr but the City may be willing to subsidize that if it is a community space. Jane will find out more.

Cafeteria Art Program – the images in the Cafeteria at the McConnell Center are hung by Dover Middle School art teachers. Is there any interest in participating in the art display by the Commission? The group agreed that working in partnership with the Middle School could be exciting. The goal would not be to take over the program but to bring added value with things like labels and openings. The Commission would consider periodically helping with curating the space. It is a great opportunity to celebrate Dover’s creativity and the group agreed helping build the capacity of that program is a good role for the Commission.

NEXT STEPS: Jane will contact the person who currently manages the program to find out more.

Schedule – There was discussion of whether Arts Commission meetings should change to a different day of the week. No action taken.

Martha made a motion to adjourn, Malone seconded. All in favor 8:36pm.

10. Goals of Commission

- Representation/Partnership with community groups and event planning committees.
- Marketing the Arts Commission - who we are, what we do.
- Major projects for focus (sponsorship).
- Spear Head Strand Theater Project.
- Outline a legacy and donation giving protocol.