



ARTS COMMISSION – AGENDA

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
 Meeting Location: McConnell Center room 323
 Meeting Date: 9-10-18
 Meeting Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Present: Jane Hamor, Kim Schuman, Amanda Nelson, Yulia Rothenberg, Pam Becker, Linnea Nemeth, Maria Ayers, Serena Duckworth Fonda

Absent: Monica Nagle, Aimee Blesing, Dennis Shanahan

Guests: Taler Bixler, Tyler Thompson

Call to order 6:36

Jane announced that Allison Castelot has tendered her resignation from the Arts Commission.

Minutes

Yulia made a motion to accept minutes with name correction, Kim seconded, unanimous.

Citizens Forum / Guests

Taler Bixler was visiting family in Almira New York, which has been trying to revitalize its city center. They close several streets every year and open them to artists to do chalk drawings. Could we do something like this in Dover? Apparently there are specific directions on how artists can create a drawing, making it easy for anyone to participate. Jane explained that the Arts Commission acts in as advisor and facilitator capacity, but cannot manage individual projects. She suggested that Taler organize a group who might be interested in the project and come back to the Commission with a proposal. Taler has the Art Commission's support in organizing this project.

Visioning Planning

Linnea sent out a revised survey for availability. Yulia will approach the police about using their room again.

Americans for the Arts Survey

Amanda has an appointment with Robin Albert, who participated in two surveys in Portsmouth.

Henry Law Mural update

Brian met with Dennis and Gary, and they went down to the site to figure out how to mount the mural. There are some concerns that the mural can't be mounted as initially proposed. Brian found an outside contractor, but the contractor was concerned that the design would have a problem with snow building up behind the mural. He suggested an alternative design that prevent snow build-up and will make the entire thing lighter. Brian is trying to get it up by Apple Harvest Day, but the official ribbon-cutting will be at a later date. Jane is going to start working on the final report even though the project isn't finished.

Aly reached out to Jane and wanted Jane to send her examples of RFPs, so she can start working on soliciting artists for the former Robbin's Building site.

Riverfront project /Our Town grant



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Jen Martell, the landscape architect, is presenting at the next Riverfront meeting, and is going to suggest a subcommittee to address public art.

HS performance space

No new developments. Perhaps the Art Commission can get a tour of the new performance space. Jane will check with Dennis.

Webpage and social media

The Art Commission Instagram account exists, but no one has access to it just yet.

Art Walk

Sign up members for monthly table:

Sept. – Serena Oct. Linnea Nov. Kim Dec. Yulia

Jane will be attending the Art Walk organizing meeting on September 14th. Jane talked to Rebecca about getting the Art Commission table on the map and moving the table quarterly. Linnea is going to work on a postcard-size of the busking poster to hand out at the table. What about a suggestion box? How does the Commission balance out getting feedback without it being so open-ended that the Commission avoids impossible suggestions without discouraging ideas. This will be discussed further at the visioning meeting.

Policy for disbursement of Arts Commission funds

First we need to come up with a budget and to do that the Commission needs to determine what expenses it has. The fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30th. Kim made a motion that the Commission hold 10% in reserve for administrative expenses. Pam seconded. Unanimous. The Commission needs to create a policy that must have a community aspect. Does the Commission fund individuals, or must the artist be working with another group (nonprofit, etc.) There needs to be a written plan, budget and timeline. The Commission decided upon quarterly grants of \$450. Successful applicants can't apply for a full 12 months after an award. The policy will include language that states what will not be awarded a grant (nothing racist, obscene, etc.). Perhaps the Commission should design a point system, to make things black and white. The finalists may be asked to come in for a personal interview—narrow down to a finalist to interview (conditional language—make it discretionary). The applicant should be required to put some money in. At what point does the artist get the money?

Apple Harvest Day

Does the Commission want to have a presence there? This may not be the right time. Jane has done it before, and it didn't yield the results that she was looking for. There are a lot of non-Dover residents that attend who wouldn't be interested in the Commission. Perhaps the Commission can put a sandwich board next to the mural (if it is up) talking about it.

New Business - Whittier St mural project

Rising Water Art Project: This is a collaboration between UNH Extension School, Strafford County Planning Dept., City of Dover and the Arts Commission. In addition a few people from the energy



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commission are involved. They are trying to get together a project to talk about it. RFP went out for a teenage artist, got one response who has proposed a mural of an underwater world. The budget is about \$400 and already has some donations. Brian is donating the leftover paint from the mural project. They are going to put together a presentation for Apple Harvest Festival. The whole idea is to spark the conversation about climate change and rising water levels.

Whittier Street Project: Yulia met with Cindy Miller, who works at Dover Housing Authority, helping people find jobs. She reached out to Yulia to see if there were projects for the residents, who are a very disenfranchised group. They are discussing doing a mural on the Seymour Osmond Center—or across the street there is a public works building with three blank garage doors. The hardest parts are going to be finding an artist who will work with the community, and need to find the funding to pay the artist.

Yulia is also trying to start a project planting trees at the Housing Authority to help create a sense of community.

Pam made motion to adjourn, Yulia seconded. Unanimous.

Adjourned: 8:37