

Visioning Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2019

Present: Linnea Nemeth, Yulia Rothenberg, Dennis Shanahan, Rick Kincaid, Jane Hamor, Kim Schuman, Amanda Nelson, Julia Kirchmer, Cliff Blake, Maria Ayer

Absent: Serena Duckrow Fonda, Pam Becker, Mike Lee

Review our History of past Projects and Achievements for New Members

The first commission project was the crab in front of the Children's Museum @2010-2011. The Children's Museum approached the commission about the project, and it was then that the Commission realized it needed a policy and application process for public art projects.

The yarn bombing installation was in September 2012 at Henry Law Park.

There were no specific projects for a couple of years.

The Commission eventually wrote a grant for the parking garage project. This allowed the Commission to research how a city can get a grant, discovering that the best way is to start with small grants which would lead to larger grants. This inspired the parking garage project. The city was incredibly supportive of the project. This resulted in a great collaboration between the Commission and other city departments.

The Henry Law Park mural was created in collaboration with the teen center and artist Brian Cartier. This Resulted in a community art day in 2018.

There were several arts mixers throughout this time.

The Commission worked with the Chamber of Commerce to nominate the city for the Governor's Arts Award.

The Commission is working with NHPTV on showcasing Dover on their "Our Hometown" program.

Dover's 400th anniversary is coming up in 2023.

The Commission is exploring applying for the Our Town grant, which can range from \$75K-\$150K.

Moving forward, the Commission needs to think about what it does in terms of facilitating projects, and how much can Commission members can take on. How does the Commission determine what it takes on and when to collaborate with partners? The Commission will have to be careful not to confuse the public on how it picks and chooses projects. This something the Commission should clarify. What is its role exactly? Perhaps the Commission should host an informational meeting once a year—perhaps it can do this at the upcoming event at Cara's on Feb. 20th (22nd?).

Proposal process:

- Contact Arts Commission
- Fill out application
- Work with city and present to council
- Budget: apply for Commission funds and other grants

- Come to a meeting!

Identify locations with the city to pre-determine areas ideal for public art.

It is clear that the other city boards and commissions don't really understand exactly what it is that the Arts Commission does. Perhaps the Commission needs to create a one-page FAQ to distribute to the other boards/commissions. Nashua had an action matrix that charted the length of the project, who were partners for the project, and whether it involved money. Perhaps we should create a similar action matrix that has overarching goals, not detailed, specific goals.

Open Discussion on Highlighted Items in Strategic Plan

The Commission members took a look at the Nashua and Portsmouth creative strategic plans. Portsmouth had a good discussion of how to integrate the various creative aspects of the city, including the waterfront, historic sites, and cultural/artistic events.

Goal 1:

Dennis spoke with a representative from the Heritage Commission. They have been very quiet so far. They could be very useful in creating an historic strategic plan. A member of the Commission should meet with them—invite them to the monthly meeting. The Commission should invite all of the stakeholders who would be interested in a cultural strategic plan, first to a meeting at the regular Commission meeting and a follow-up meeting that is distinct and separate from the regular Commission meeting (like this retreat).

Goal 2:

This needs to be updated.

Percent for Art: At the state level, it is .5% of the total budget for construction that must be devoted to art. The Commission can approach various developers and ask if they would be willing to donate part of their impact fees to the Arts Commission for art projects; however, it must be a city funded project. If it is a privately funded project, there is more flexibility. The number of city development projects will likely decline in the next few years, and the focus will be on private developers. If the Commission approaches private developers, it can use the state percent for art as an example. The Commission is going to have to be very proactive in approaching private developers.

The Commission should ask whether Chris Parker would be willing to be its staff liaison to the city. The Arts Commission is the only commission that does not have a paid staff member to work on its behalf. Although it is usually paired with the recreation department, the Arts Commission should really be paired with the planning board.

Goal 3

Officers

Technically the Commission is supposed to have a chair and vice-chair, not co-chairs. Perhaps the Commission should revise its operating rules. The Commission currently does not have a regular secretary and treasurer. The Commission hasn't had a need for a treasurer because it's never had money before. The secretary position has been a rotating position. The Commission will elect officers at our next meeting.

Goal 4

Strengthen relationships within the city and the community

Should the Commission designate roles as needed? There are still parts of the city government and community where the Commission doesn't have much of a relationship. The Commission needs to continue its outreach. The Art Walk is an excellent example of successful outreach. Once the Commission got involved, it has had a continuous presence there. Each member of the Arts Commission should take a look at their skill set and what each can bring to the table.

Short Term and Long-Term Goals

One major long-term goal is to create a cultural strategic plan. The Commission needs to develop a process to get to the final strategic plan.

The Arts Commission must be an integral part of the city's thinking when they are planning development.

The Arts Commission needs to be involved with the monthly Dover tourism meeting.

The Arts Commission needs to have a person on the Coheco Art Festival meetings. The city has about 10-15K allocated to the Festival, the Commission should have input into how that money is spent.

Specific goals:

Short term—next meeting

- Facilitation sheet—how to you work with the Arts Commission? What does the Commission want to present at Cara's?
- Kim will find out about the block grant

Elect officers

- See if Dave Carpenter will be our liaison
- Reach out to find out whether the Commission can use any recording device at its meetings or must it be the one provided by the city?
- Inventory team strengths
- Commissioner's bios

2-3 Months

- Work with Mike Gillis to develop marketing materials (a postcard) that is multipurpose—can be handed out to people at the Art Walk, other commissions/boards, etc.
- Linnea, Cliff and Pam will be on a subcommittee to start looking at steps for creating a cultural strategic plan. Members of the Commission should also have an informal meeting with Chris Parker to start talking about the strategic plan before meeting with the planning meeting.