



ARTS COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
 Meeting Location: McConnell Center
 Meeting Date: 7-1-19
 Meeting Time: 6:30 Room 323 McConnell Center

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

Absent: Mike Lee

Guests: Shane Morin

Call to order: 6:32

Citizens Forum: artist Hannah McMahon

Maria said Hannah McMahon was a local artist who approached her about doing a mural on a private building—McMahon has permission to do a mural from the building owner. She was unable to make the meeting tonight but will try and attend a future meeting.

Minutes

Yulia made a motion to accept the minutes and Pam seconded. Passed unanimously.

Literary Laureate

Dennis drafted an amendment to the city ordinance authorizing the Arts Commission to include language about the literary laureate, and a hearing for it will be next Wednesday at 7pm during the public hearings/citizens forum section. Shane drafted a preliminary nomination form which lists the requirements of the literary laureate position. The question remains as to whether to award a stipend. This could be difficult as it risks the literary laureate becoming a city employee—city employees cannot sit on boards, so there would be a conflict. But the Arts Commission could allocate a certain amount of money for specific projects done by the literary laureate. The Arts Commission decided upon allocating project funding instead of awarding a stipend. Yulia made a motion to accept the ordinance with changes and Cliff seconded. Passed unanimously.

Cocheco River Writers

Shane is working with two others to create affordable workshops for writers starting in the summer (July 21st). The idea is not to compete with UNH and other literary outlets, but to compliment them. The classes will be small.

City Grant update

Pam did the Art Walk last month at Cara's. Aaron came with his wife and daughter and said how excited he is to be the winner of the City Grant. Yulia took pictures of him receiving the check at the Maker's Fair and posted them to Facebook. The Arts Commission is going to try and get an image in the Dover Download. On a negative side, it took 2 months to get the money from the city and it shouldn't take so long. The Arts Commission will speak to someone at the city to see how we can speed up the process or figure out where the hold-up is.

Chestnut St Mural Update

Not a lot of information to share, but Jane did get an email from Aly who said they received fifteen applications which they will be reviewing. Aly asked if they should be working with the Arts Commission on anything else, and Jane suggested that she call the references and to let us know who they decide to pick. Moving forward, we may want to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) instead of an RFP.



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Governor's Award in the Arts

The deadline has been extended a month. The narrative is with Margaret at the Chamber and is a much stronger narrative than last time. There are letters of recommendation from Senator Watters, the Woodman Museum, and the Children's Museum. Applicants can also submit support materials (limited to ten pages), and Kim included links to various newspapers. Yulia is going to help Kim organize some images that the Chamber can include in the nomination application.

Community Performing Arts Theatre Consultant Update

Jane was asked to schedule a meeting with Matt Cahoon, which occurred this morning with the superintendent. It was an informational meeting, and Matt discussed what they've been doing at Pinkerton and what they are planning to do. He brought some playbills showing their performances for the 2018-2019 season. He discussed issues as to how things are scheduled, how do you set rental fees, etc. A technical person is important. Matt has worked with multiple schools around the state, and each school has offered tech training. There are still a couple of things that the school needs for the theater (i.e. projector). The superintendent would like for Matt to work on the policy instead of creating another committee. They are planning to meet with Matt to walk around the theater to determine priority of needs. Rick and Cliff are interested in representing the Arts Commission at the walk-through. Aimee is back from Australia and Jane will reach out to her to get her thoughts.

2019-20 AC Budget Plans

We need to determine what our budget is going to be and how we are going to spend the money. We need to consider projects, while carving out money for Arts Commission members to attend conferences and other events on behalf of the City. We need to table this conversation to August as we can't discuss it in depth. Each member of the Arts Commission should bring ideas to the table next month about how the budget should be spent.

NEFA conference

Jane and Amanda attended the New England Foundation for the Arts' Creative Communities Exchange in Montpelier, VT. They attended sessions on creating cultural strategic plans, public art plans, and place-making. One topic of discussion was how to reflect the diversity of a community. Should we be looking at how we can increase diversity, and what does diversity mean in Dover?

Recorder stopped at some point between 7:45 and 8:00.

Visioning / Cultural Plan / Planning Board re-zoning mtg

Linnea has made updates to the cultural plan and sent a draft to Lisa Burke McCoy over at NHSCA for feedback. She talked about presenting our visioning to the Planning Board and City Council. She's spoken to Chris Parker and found out they've already reached out to outside consultants without talking to the Arts Commission. Parker wants us to be involved although we have not heard anything yet. There is apparently some sort of arts task force being formed through the Rec Department but no one has approached the Arts Commission about this. Additionally, the Planning Board has been examining zoning for public art and has proposed language in the city ordinances but has not been in contact with the Arts Commission. Amanda was concerned that proposed language has potential for First Amendment violations. Linnea reached out to the Planning Board on behalf of the Arts Commission. We may have to assign a member of the Arts Commission to each city board to monitor their agendas



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to make sure the Arts Commission isn't being left out. Jane and Linnea will schedule a meeting with Gary to discuss the issue. Dennis recommended that the Arts Commission meet with Chris Parker, Mike Joyal and Mayor Weston because the number of instances of the Arts Commission being excluded from important discussions has been increasing.

Art Walk / Cara's June, July, August

Maria—July

Amanda—August

Americans for the Arts

No new information.

New Business/Outreach

Linnea said the 400th anniversary commission has been posting for free help from a graphic designer. Linnea and Kim have flagged those posts to reach out to them regarding asking an artist to work for free when the 400th anniversary commission is seeking large corporate donations. Someone from the Arts Commission should attend the next meeting.

Dan at the Strand has offered up his space for public meetings.

Children's Museum had the Maker's Fair this past Saturday. It went very well and everyone had a great time. They are planning a community project around the current art show, probably in August.

Pam made motion to adjourn and Rick seconded Passed unanimously.

Adjourned: 8:36