



ARTS COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
 Meeting Location: McConnell Center
 Meeting Date: 8-5-19
 Meeting Time: 6:30 Room 323 McConnell Center

Present: Jane Hamor, Linnea Nemeth, Amanda Nelson, Julia Kirchmer, Yulia Rothenberg, Cliff Blake, Rick Kincaid, Mike Lee, Kim Schuman

Absent: Maria Ayer, Pam Becker, Dennis Shanahan

Guests: Debra Martuscello Wiley (Garrison Players), Monica Nagle, Aaron Risi

Call to order 6:33

Citizens Forum

Aaron Risi brought copies of his book which has been published. He has used some grant funds to purchase ukuleles along with accessories to donate to the Dover Children's Home. These will be donated on Thursday Aug. 8 at 12:30. Aaron has been working on getting press to the event. Fosters has been good about getting information about events ahead of time. Two more events are being planned consisting of a live concert with a request for clothing and/or shoe donation and in return any accompanying child gets a treat. He is planning a book release party on Saturday Sept. 21st (possibly) and needs a good venue. He will also do a clothing drive at that event as well. Julie will check with the Children's Museum to see if they are willing to host. Perhaps the library can be a back-up location.

Monica discussed the development of The Mother's Day Freedom project. The project began in 2016 and is an anti-violence campaign. It started with a poem from one of her books, and now has grown into a large project involving multiple books, paintings, a play, and CDs. UNH will be having a gallery show of the project in October, which is domestic violence month. Monica expressed her sincerest thanks to the Arts Commission for its support of projects like hers and for the arts community in general.

Minutes

Linnea made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Yulia seconded. Passed unanimously.

2019-20 AC Budget Plans

Do we want to set out a formal budget now, or do we want to figure out a second round of grants, and then hold funds in reserve until later? That way if something came up we would have the flexibility to make decisions. The Commission decided it should set out how much money it wants to earmark for grants, which it can then publicize, and hold the rest in reserve. Yulia suggested two grants of \$1500. Aaron has been very attentive to reporting what he has been doing with the grant money, which is wonderful to see (and perhaps is setting a very high bar for future recipients). We need to set out a timeline of dates ahead of time which would include a grant workshop, the submission deadline, decision date, and expected project start-time. Jane spoke with the 400th committee about asking for artists to work for free. Do we want to allocate money so the 400th can pay for the artist's work? If we do that though, the Commission should have the final say as to the artwork. If we find we have money left over at the end of the year, we can always award a couple of mini-grants. The Commission



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decided to do two \$1500 grants, but the wording in the announcement should say “up to \$1500” so if a project doesn’t need the full \$1500 then we can re-designate the remainder.

Yulia made a motion to allocate \$3000 of the Arts Commission’s budget to fund two City Arts Grants of up to \$1500 each for FY 2019-2020. Rick seconded. Passed unanimously.

The grant workshop should be in early October. The Commission set a date for Wednesday, October 16th. Yulia is going to check and see if the police community room is available and if so, book it. We should make two “dummy” applications, one that shows a really solid application, and one that isn’t acceptable.

Literary Laureate

No updates.

Community Performing Arts Theatre Consultant Update

There was a good crowd at the meeting: Cliff and Rick from the Commission, Aimee Blessing, the Superintendent, Matt (the consultant), the facilities manager, etc. They took a tour of the building to get a bird-eye’s view of the facility. There are a lot of issues with the space. It appears that many of the suggestions to improve the space that the Arts Commission made several years ago were not implemented. Matt made a lot of good suggestions of things that could be done to improve the space. The Superintendent decided to hold off on forming a policy committee until Matt had submitted all of his suggestions.

Cultural Plan (Linnea)

Jane and Linnea met with Chris Parker, Donna Benton and Gary Bannon to discuss the cultural plan. A bid has gone out and a consultant has been hired. A contract was signed in late July. A task force will be created soon. They were appreciative of the work that the Commission has done at this point. Apparently, the Arts Commission cultural plan is too detailed for a city plan, but the city is very interested in incorporating everything at some level. Linnea will be the liaison to the task force for the Commission. They also want a member of the artistic business community as a member of the task force. Chris and Gary are going to speak to Mike Joyal about moving the Commission out from the Rec. Dept. and to another department of the city that would better suit the needs of the Commission, but for budget reasons it needs to remain with the Rec. Dept. for now. Jane and Linnea said that we need to eventually budget for a staff person at the city level who would be assigned to the Commission. The consultant has been hired to create a broad, high level plan, and our plan could be used to flesh out the details. Chris is interested in creating a fund where all new construction would have to pay a percentage of construction costs that would go into public art. Tampa has a good model of such a fund.

400th Anniversary Committee

As noted above, Jane spoke with members of the 400th Committee about asking artists to work for free. Jane spoke with Cathy Morrison about having a member of the Commission on the



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400th anniversary. At this point there are no vacancies, but there are several members who haven't attended a meeting in quite some time, so she is working with the Appointments Committee to remove them. She encouraged Commission members to attend the meetings so when a space opens then perhaps a Commission member could become an official member. Yulia and Rick are planning to try and attend the next meeting.

Art Walk / Cara's - new location for the fall?

One Washington Street is currently under construction. The elevator was closed, and all of the activity in the August art walk was on the 4th floor. Julia wasn't sure if the Children's Museum would be the best location. Jane is going to reach out to Lickee and Chewie's to see if they are willing to be a location for September-December.

September-Linnea

October-Rick

November-Yulia

December-Cliff

Americans for the Arts

No updates.

New Business/Outreach

Orpheum Apartments—two artists from Portsmouth (called Signature Unknown) were awarded the project. Jane hasn't heard anything from the developers for a while.

Creative Placemaking Conference (Concord)—Yulia and Linnea are interested in going. Linnea is going to speak to the planning board about our people going through the planning board. Cliff made a motion that the Commission send a member to the creative placemaking conference in Concord for one of the two-days, and another member to the conference for both days. Mike seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. If the planning board will not send the Commission members, then they will have to register on their own and apply for reimbursement.

Brainstorming session—Linnea and Jane spoke about gathering some members from the community and having a brainstorming session about actual events, programs, etc. that we would like to see happen in the community and whether there are those in the community who might want to partner. Examples could be Main Street, Chamber of Commerce, Wrong Brain, the Arts Center, Teen Center, Woodman, Children's Museum, the Strand, restaurant owners (who organizes Restaurant Week), Tendercrop, Salmon Falls, Silver Fountain Inn, Wentworth Greenhouse. We need someone to coordinate this. The Commission should hold this in January to take advantage of the new year. We should also try and secure a location as soon as possible.



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Presentation at City Hall—Linnea and Jane are planning to do a presentation at City Hall. Many other commissions and committees have bulletin boards showing what it is they are doing, but the Arts Commission does not have a spot. Should the Commission have a table at Apple Harvest? We could invite Aaron to share the tent with us to show what the Commission has been doing and advertise the grant program. Jane will check with Gary about getting a booth.

Coffee with the Mayor—Cliff, Rick, Amanda and Yulia are planning to attend. They will take good notes to bring back to the Commission and whether there will be something we need to address separately.

Yulia made a motion to adjourn and Rick seconded. Passed unanimously.

Adjourned: 8:25