

**ARTS COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center
Meeting Date: 11-4-19
Meeting Time: 6:30 Room 323 McConnell Center

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

Absent: Maria Ayer, Dennis Shanahan, Julia Kirchmer

Call to Order: 6:38

Citizens Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

Minutes

Cliff made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting and Yulia seconded. Passed unanimously.

Membership

Reid Weston was approached to fill the empty alternative spot on the commission; however, she has had to take a medical leave and will not be applying to be a member at this time. Yulia had someone approach her from the Leadership Forum who might be interested in joining the commission. Because Pam stepped down, we need a new treasurer. Jane asked for someone to consider volunteering for the position.

Literary Laureate

Cliff has been working on changing the grant application to a laureate application. He read aloud the draft language, particularly the overview and instructions for the application. Applicants must either live in Dover or work in Dover. We need to create criteria on how we evaluate the applications. The finalist must be approved by the appointments committee. The application will be made available in January.

Arts Community Brainstorming Session

Jane went online to Dover Listens and contacted them about facilitating. They are very interested in helping the commission with the project and want to meet with us, probably in the first week in December.

Art Walk / Locations and Sign-Ups

December-Yulia (CMNH)

January-Cliff-Wrong Brain? (Yulia will talk to Wrong Brain about the commission having its table there.)

February-Jane

March-TBD



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Jane went to a meeting of the Art Walk today at the Chamber. Main Street is reorganizing and as a result their ability to help with the Art Walk is limited. Danielle Festa is stepping back as well. Because the Art Walk is no longer part of Main Street, they will not have insurance, and so will probably have to leave the Chinburg courtyard. There will be changes made to the Art Walk in order to make it more inclusive of the arts. The Cochecho Arts Festival will start meeting in December, and it is possible that the Art Walk will formally become part of the Cochecho Arts Festival. The Art Walk has developed an app that people can use and that will help them track attendance. Julia worked the table in November, and she had come up with an activity for the kids. She said the attendance was very high.

As we move forward, we have to make sure that we continue to create opportunities for inclusion and diversity. The 400th Anniversary would be a great place to highlight Dover's cultural diversity.

Art Exhibit location @ City Hall/TV monitor at City Hall & Library

We are all set with the exhibit space. We need to add this as a location in our application. Yulia will update the application to include the new exhibit space. They also have a tv monitor and Susan asked if the commission wanted to use it to highlight an artist, but this could create the impression that the commission is advocating for a specific artist. If we included it as a potential site that someone has to apply for, then it would help remove that impression. Jane is going to circle back with Susan to find out what she had in mind.

Cultural Plan

The city is very pleased with the feedback from the Art Walk and Apple Harvest Day. People were very excited at being asked for feedback on public art. The next outreach was planned for the downtown Halloween trick-or-treat and Linnea will find out the details from that at the next meeting. Much of the feedback was reflective of things that the commission has already discussed. Communication and PR is definitely a major issue as many people reported not being aware of various opportunities.

Yulia and Linnea attended the creative communities conference in Concord and came away with several ideas on how we can bring together various city commissions to move forward with a cohesive plan. The important take-away is that the arts commission needs to get involved in the planning stage as early as possible.

City Arts Grant

Jane reached out to everyone who attended the information session, and a couple of people have said they are preparing an application.

Community Performing Arts Theatre Consultant Update

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We are back on track. After Matt did his walk-around, he was swamped at work over the summer so he wasn't able to focus on the Theatre. He's going to talk to the various entities at the high school to create a budget on how much it would cost to run the theatre every single day. He said it shifts the focus on how much money is lost when the theater is not rented.

NHSCA Arts in Education Conference Nov. 14 & 15, 2019

The commission is going to be more of an advocate/welcome at the conference instead of a presenter. There are presenters that are far better geared towards the theme of the conference. We are still lacking key details.

Community Trail Update

Linnea reached out to Donna to find out about the mural that appeared overnight. Apparently, the mural was not supposed to be there, but the overall project snowballed and was not an intentional snubbing of the arts commission.

New Business/Outreach

Kim has run into technical difficulties with the plaque for the Henry Law mural. She is going to continue working on this.

Mike suggested that the commission have a YouTube site where we can post our own content. Jane is going to check with Mike.

Fire Dept. Sculpture

One of the captains reached out about a memorial to firefighters in Dover. We will continue to meet with them.

Cliff went to the 400th Anniversary meeting. There are still many organizational issues that need to be worked out.

Linnea is meeting with the PTA Reflections people to help the commission get more involved with school kids.

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

Adjourned: 8:27