

**ARTS COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chamber, Dover City Hall
Meeting Date: 6-15-20
Meeting Time: 6:30 pm

Present: Amanda Nelson, Jane Hamor, Cliff Blake, Yulia Rothenberg, Dennis Shanahan, Julia Kirchmer, Linnea Nemeth, Rick Kincaid, Ginnie Kristl, Mike Lee, Gary Bannon

Absent: Nancy Vawter, Kim Schuman

Call to Order: 6:33

Citizens Forum

No citizens attended.

Minutes

Linnea made a motion to accept the minutes and Julia seconded. Passed unanimously.

DAC Budget

The 2021 budget was approved by the City Council and will continue the \$5000 for the DAC. There was some discussion about trimming some rec programs, including the DAC budget, but the Council recognized that we need culture, recreation and the arts right now.

With the remaining budget from FY 2020 we are going to work on our marketing materials. Mike has been working on a new logo. Dennis is going to talk to the Rec Dept. about the remaining funds as we don't want to rush spending just to spend the money. Maybe we can roll that small amount into a trust fund.

City Arts Grant review recommendations

Jane updated the rest of the commission regarding the grant applications. We currently have a balance of \$3500 in our account. The printmaking project at the Arts Center will receive \$1500 and Marielle Carpentier will receive \$1500. We did not fund the transportation proposal as it would be located on private property and she would have total control over access. In order to maintain our budget, the awardees will need to formally accept the grant and create an invoice in order to earmark the funds as they cannot be spent now due to the virus. The earmark will allow the funds to be held and spent later in the year. Must be done before July 1st.

Jane made a motion to award \$1500 for the printmaking project and Cliff seconded. Passed unanimously.

Jane made a motion to award Marielle Carpentier \$1500 and Rick seconded. Passed unanimously.

Jane made a motion for zero funds for transportation project and Linnea seconded. Passed unanimously.

Arts Community Brainstorming Session w/ Dover Listens



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They left off discussions in March. The arts community has been turned upside down, so we are going to table our brainstorming session for now. The DAC will try to determine a way to make it virtual. Perhaps we can make this a Zoom meeting because this is an event sponsored by the DAC, not a public meeting. Children’s Museum is not going to be open any time soon. Woodman was thinking of July 1st, but not sure how that is going to look. They have a board meeting on Thursday and Amanda will circle back to the DAC. Rebecca said the Art Center will be open on a limited basis and will do a lot of virtual exhibits. Perhaps we need to rethink our brainstorming session and have a discussion about what the future of the arts in our community is going to look like. Yulia suggested that we feature different artists on our Facebook. Linnea did post something on our page regarding artist profiles, but never got a response. This is tabled until our next meeting.

Culture & Recreation Master Plan

They finished their meeting in February and met virtually to wrap it up. Planning board met on May 26 and voted to pass it so it will be incorporated into the master plan. The next step is to figure out how to tackle the various goals that were proposed. We will include a discussion of the goals at our next meeting.

Art Exhibit locations & publicity

This is an area that we can focus on moving forward, particularly as things start to open up. This is tabled for the next meeting as things are still not fully open. Linnea did a virtual walking tour of art spaces, and suggested the DAC do something similar to help advertise the spots that are available for exhibition.

The DAC needs to work with the Chamber to reach out to people. Jane spoke with Margaret—Margaret was most excited about developing a program where businesses would offer exhibit space within their businesses. She said a lot of businesses are looking to give back to the community, but currently don’t have actual money for sponsorships. If the DAC came up with a name for this program, the Chamber would advertise it. A subcommittee was suggested to look into this and Cliff, Julia and Amanda are interested. This is a good time because a lot of the Chamber’s events have changed so they have some time. We already have a list of businesses that are already doing this. Yulia pointed out that it takes a lot of work to put together a show, while the business gets all of the benefits. We would have to create guidelines, including duration and terms. The Chamber expressed interest in managing this program.

How do we let artists know about these opportunities? The city has been sending out a lot of emails, including the Dover Download—we can create a consistent message that can go in these materials. Work with the Art Walk to reach out to artists. Linnea will work on our “campaign”.

We need to do a photo-op with our grant awardees and a press release to send to Fosters.



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Community Performing Arts Theatre Consultant Update

Jane has been in contact with Matt Cahoon—he came to a school administration meeting, and also came back and did a more in-depth viewing of the space. He was going to work on something over school vacation, but things were unraveling at that time. He’s now working with the state on how to open up performing arts spaces, so he cannot work on the consulting in the way we wanted. He sent Jane a lot of material on how to safely reopen a performing space. Can we take the summer to take time to create the policies that we need in place when we can safely open? Jane is going to have to reach out to the superintendent. Given the challenges the schools are facing, this might not be a priority. Perhaps the school can assign someone from their staff. Perhaps the DAC can have a greater role in developing the plan to take the burden off. Jane and Linnea will reach out to the superintendent. (Will keep Amanda in the loop.)

Cocheco Arts Festival (Cliff)

They don’t have a firm decision yet on what the festival is going to look like. Cliff spoke with Morgan. They are toying with only doing one weekend in a drive-up format. Their board is meeting on Thursday and will make a firm decision. They have been exploring parking lots as potential sites. No word on Apple Harvest.

Jane also talked to Margaret about Chamber board members who were concerned about the fact that there won’t be regular performances over the summer. How can we help musicians? Can we encourage pop-up performances? Mike suggested a “reverse” parade where the artists could be outside and the patrons drive-by. Can we work with radio stations? We want to avoid a mass of people, so if we didn’t do a drive-through, we’d have to close enough streets to give people room. We have a lot of options. The idea has enough merit to bring it to the Chamber. Jane will reach out to Margaret before their board meeting. Perhaps this can replace Apple Harvest Day.

Updates: Literary Laureate ,400th Committee, Art Walk

The literary laureate application process will be tabled to next year as there isn’t much we can do. Jane has been in touch with the 400th, they haven’t met, but have a subcommittee working on the logo. She suggested a Zoom meeting with Kim but hasn’t happened. Jane spoke with Rebecca and Danielle about the art walk. It has been virtual for months, and will stay that way for July and August, but they said that after that they are not interested in continuing it. We will reach out to them before the final date to discuss get feedback for our own future planning with the Chamber.

DAC Focus for future

Are there things we want to discuss for the future? We have accomplished a lot of our projects in the last year. Do we want to create a theme for our grant? For example, can we fund an artist who could do something virtually so people socially isolating at home can participate? Do we

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want to do one bigger project—like the tiny library project? This would be great for the literary laureate. We should reach out to the new librarian. Ginnie is willing to work on this project.

New Business/Outreach

Yulia asked about the mural project at the Orpheum. Jane will try to find out. The Foster's Building wants to do something 400th logo related.

Aaron Risi needs to submit a final evaluation—Jane will reach out to him.

Emily is moving forward with publishing her book. We need to see what the school year is going to look like before moving forward on that part of her project. Jane will forward publisher info on to Amanda.

Next meeting: Monday, July 6th, at 7pm, City Council Chamber.

Linnea made a motion to adjourn and Julia seconded. Passed unanimously.

Adjourned: 8:03