

**ARTS COMMISSION – AGENDA**

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chamber, Dover City Hall
Meeting Date: 7-6-20
Meeting Time: 7:00 pm

Present: Linnea Nemeth, Jane Hamor, Nancy Vawter, Cliff Blake, Ginnie Kristl, Julia Kirchmer, Kim Schuman, Yulia Rothenberg, Amanda Nelson, Gary Bannon

Absent: Mike Lee, Rick Kincaid

Guest: Margaret Joyce

Call to Order 7:10

Citizens Forum

Margaret Joyce - Chamber of Commerce

Margaret has spoken with Jane and Cliff about the Cochecho Arts Festival. It is not going to be a summer long festival but condensed to one weekend—Friday-Sunday. The location is going to be St. John’s Methodist Church parking lot. They recommend a ticketed event because of crowd control and social distancing. They are also suggesting a charge per ticket in order to make sure people don’t reserve a ticket and then not use it, preventing someone else from attending, along with adding the option to donate an additional sum. It will be drive in, but there is a nice large lawn as well. Ticketing will also minimize having to turn people away. The dates will be Aug. 14-16th. There will be a movie Friday night, a children’s event Saturday morning, concert (partnering with the Shark) Saturday evening, and are working on an art event Sunday during the Farmer’s Market in Henry Law Park. They have lost some sponsors who are donating to Covid-19 relief funds this year but most sponsors have come back. The Fire Department will offer popcorn and water. Lickee and Chewees might provide candy. They are going to encourage people to get takeout from their favorite restaurant. They reached out to Danielle Feista and Rebecca Proctor as to whether Main Street could coordinate an art event but hasn’t heard back from her. “Art in the Park.” They need to figure out permitting and are working with the City. They also need to find out how many spaces are available before reaching out to artists, and need to coordinate with the Farmer’s Market. There are still details that need to be worked out.

Apple Harvest Day is still up in the air. DAC will continue discussions with the Chamber to determine whether we can do something. Cliff looked into NHSCA grants, but the Chamber has the wrong tax designation; however, a municipality can apply so perhaps the DAC can act as a fiscal agent. Is there Covid-19 money we could use that was designated for the arts—to pay the musicians? Margaret is going to look into this.

Jane and Margaret discussed the idea of the DAC and Chamber partnering to encourage businesses to feature artists in their store/business. We need to formalize it as a program. Perhaps launch in the fall as we have enough going on with the Cochecho Arts Festival and Apple Harvest. Danielle and Rebecca are no longer going to continue the Art Walk and communicated this to Jane. This program could potentially take over for the Art Walk. If the



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Art Walk is no longer continuing, perhaps they will let us take over the app they created. The more we can make digital the better, both for Covid reasons but also for printing costs.

Minutes

Cliff made a motion to approve the minutes and Ginnie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Culture & Recreation Master Plan

The plan got approved in the May meeting. We need to reevaluate our goals and how we are going to move forward on them. Linnea looked at our many high priority goals, and we are well on the way of accomplishing them. We need to start working on the waterfront park. They had a meeting a couple of weeks ago, but the committee is on hold as some adjustments need to be made to the initial proposal. This would be a good project for the DAC to work on with the Planning Board. The timeline for construction will firm up over the next couple of months.

DAC Focus for future - 2021 Goals

Literary Laureate—Cliff felt that there was not a lot of community interest in this at this moment. Perhaps this should become a second priority for the time-being. This could tie into our Tiny Library project.

Performing Arts Theater space—Jane is going to continue to work on this. She reached out to Peter Driscoll but hasn't heard back. They need to get some sort of policies and guides in place. There are two pending issues—the schools don't even have a plan for the rest of the school reopening; policies for the performance space. Perhaps we can put something together on their behalf to ease the burden. This should remain at the top as we can take action on it immediately as soon as we are put in touch with the right contact person.

Tool Kit— We need to continue our work to let other City committees know who we are and what we do. We had discussed creating a succinct, short document to share at our last strategic planning session. "How to Work with the Arts Commission." Perhaps we can get a grant to help us rebrand and create a marketing plan. We do not have the capacity to market the Literary Laureate or the grants properly. How do we market, an internal marketing plan? An internal tool kit and an external tool kit. This will be a priority. Ginnie will start on that.

Organizing a forum for arts orgs and individuals to coordinate—if it is a small enough group we can meet. We should reach out to NH Listens. Evaluate this month by month, until it feels like the right time to meet

Establishing a plan for future public art installations—this could tie into our conversation with the Chamber.

Waterfront Park—nothing immediate needs to take place



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400th commission—not a priority at this point as there isn’t much going on currently.

Art Exhibit locations & publicity

Linnea started to think about our public art campaign, and how do we tell people about the potential locations as well as the current public art we have; more permanent locations. Two parts: Where are the locations? What is already installed—list? We have a lot of great stuff, people just don’t know about it and we need to raise awareness. The plaque for Brian Cartier’s mural has gone missing. It was ordered, but no one seems to know what happened to it. Jane will look into it. Perhaps we can create a map of all of the locations. Perhaps we can create a marker for each location—something small but eye-catching—do something like the Freedom Trail. This could be a part of the larger city wayfinding project. We will compile our list and reach out to others.

Community Performing Arts Theatre Consultant Update

No updates

Cocheco Arts Festival

See discussion above.

Updates: Literary Laureate ,400th Committee, Art Walk

400th Jane has been in touch with them regarding the logo but hasn’t heard much about the logo. She thinks they started meeting again about the same time as the DAC, so maybe only one meeting. No info on their 501(c)(3) status. We should not backburner this too much as we want to make sure the arts are included in their planning.

Literary Laureate—tabled until marketing plan

Tiny Library—tabled until marketing plan.

New Business/Outreach

Children’s Museum—virtual maker’s fest, Aug. 29th. No details yet.

Woodman has opened July 1st. Timed tours and people must purchase tickets in advance. Currently, no tickets are sold at the door. Face masks are required.

The murals have been installed on the Orpheum Building. The final murals are different from what was requested in the RFP. How involved do we want to be when private companies ask for our help drafting RFPs? Do we want to be involved in the selection process if we are going to be involved?

The extra \$500 left over from our budget went into the trust.

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The grant applicants got their information in on time, so those projects are in the works. Aaron is working on his final report. We should invite Marelle to attend the next meeting. Rebecca invited us to have our meeting down at the Arts Center to see the printing press. Linnea made motion to adjourn and Yulia seconded. Passed unanimously.
Adjourned: 8:56