

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, JUNE 23, 2020
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3), Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.; UVMC), Robert Welsch (Heritage Commission), Karen Zook (City Council Rep.), Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.), Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep; AVA Gallery), Rebecca Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1), and Sherry Fiore (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Clifford (Vice Chair), Devin Wilkie (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)

STAFF PRESENT: David Brooks, Planning & Zoning Director, Krissy Flythe, Recreation Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

A. Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A "Right-to-Know" requirements.

Mr. Brooks shared the State directive and participation details for the online meeting in Microsoft Teams. All speakers identified themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 25, 2020

Page 3, Line 11 – correct spelling of 'Department'.

***A MOTION by Mr. Welsch to approve the February 25, 2020 Minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Gaffney .***

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included Mr. Van Vliet, Ms. Foster, Ms. Fiore, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Welsch, Mr. Gaffney, Chair Giordani, Ms. Zook

****The Motion was approved (8-0)***

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Discussion Re: Friends of the ACC

No discussion.

B. Discussion Re: Public Art

1. Graffiti Art in the Skate Park.

Ms. Flythe spoke about a project proposal to install mural panels on posts in the Riverside Park for approved public art or 'graffiti'. The project would utilize paintable metal panels instead of plywood. Mr. Dunn liked that the panels were elevated to provide clear visibility underneath so no one can hide behind them. Ms. Foster asked who will make the final decision, what is the process, and what is

timing of project? Ms. Flythe provided an example of rules from a Salisbury, NC graffiti park. Chair Giordani noted would it be helpful if members of the Commission coordinated with the Recreation Department to prepare a presentation to the City Manager. Ms. Flythe wanted to hear from the Commission whether they think this is a good idea and something that should be advanced. Mr. Van Vliet asked about opportunities for a community event to open the park and let people know they are invited to engage with them in light of COVID-19 conditions? Ms. Foster said the Programming subcommittee hasn't been able to meet to discuss logistics further.

Ms. Zook suggested a social media campaign may be appropriate. Ms. Flythe mentioned that lighting at the skate park is expected to be operational by July 1st. Mr. Brooks suggested coordinating with other skate park events.

Mr. Dunn suggested having some 'semi-permanent' panels by artists and then a handful of public, rotating panels. Mr. Van Vliet agreed that this would be a good way of inviting engagement. Chair Giordani noted that some members of the skating community are also artists.

Mr. Brooks said it would be useful to have Commission agreement that the project is worthwhile and that the Commission would be interested in using Planning funds to partner with Recreation to move forward. Ms. Zook liked the idea of having some artists 'prime the pump'. Chair Giordani suggested having photos of artists on the Recreation webpage to help spread information.

Mr. Dunn stated that they would definitely need guidance signs, but also need instructions on what type of materials are used.

***A MOTION by Karen Zook that the Arts and Culture Commission formally endorses the Recreation Department's graffiti wall project.
Seconded by Chair Giordani.***

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Welsch, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Fiore, Ms. Foster, Mr. Van Vliet, Ms. Zook, and Chair Giordani.

****The Motion was approved (8-0)***

The Programming subcommittee will coordinate with the Recreation and Planning Departments to prepare the presentation. Mr. Brooks will share logistics email from Recreation with the Commission.

2. Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Chair Giordani noted an opportunity to provide artwork on the fencing enclosure around the proposed charging station on Taylor St. Mr. Gaffney asked what will fencing look like. Chair Giordani said it was not yet decided. Mr. Brooks confirmed that the location is along Taylor St, near CCBA and Senior Center parking lots. Chair Giordani noted that Energy and Facilities Manager Tad Montgomery may be able to provide additional information about size, timing, etc.

Mr. Dunn noted it would be a great opportunity to promote area arts organizations. Mr. Van Vliet suggested photos of making art on some parts of the fencing. Mr. Gaffney suggested an illustrated map of downtown showing arts organizations, restaurants, etc. Mr. Welsch noted that it could include historic properties. Chair Giordani indicated that perhaps Mr. Gaffney could participate on Civic Art work group on this issue and she will connect with Tad Montgomery for more information for future meeting.

3. Downtown Tunnel

Mr. Brooks provided an update on the time schedule of the tunnel restoration, which appears to be on schedule for opening event in Spring/Summer 2021

4. Mascoma/Mechanic/High Sts Roundabout

C. Discussion Re: Planning & Goals for the remainder of 2020

Chair Giordani asked members to continue to think about project ideas and goals for upcoming events. Mr. Welsch asked if the Colburn Park fountain covers will be done again this year. Chair Giordani said it is not known what will happen with schools and afterschool programs. Mr. Gaffney indicated that AVA has discussed conducting ArtStop again if conditions allow for it. Many issues still to be determined based on appropriate guidance and parent's comfort levels.

Ms. Flythe noted that Recreation has encountered a lot more graffiti due to heavier use of the Greenway and Northern Rail Trail. Mr. Brooks mentioned that some of the remaining metal bridges on the Greenway and Rail Trail could provide opportunities for additional public art.

Mr. Van Vliet noted that arts and music seem like something that can help people deal with the impacts of COVID-19. It was noted that Lebanon is fortunate to have access to nature and outdoors and could benefit from more access to arts. Mr. Van Vliet suggested helping direct people's attention to art to avoid getting stuck in a bubble and make sure people know that art is part of the community. Mr. Dunn said he could imagine Upper Valley Music Center students providing impromptu concerts in the Park or in front of Rogers House.

Ms. Foster said the UV Senior Center is helping to contact and communicate with seniors who can't get out of the house at places like Maple Manor, Lebanon Towers, and Rogers House. Mr. Van Vliet asked if a musician could be attached to home meal delivery? Ms. Foster said they still need to meet universal guidelines for distancing, but she could communicate with Lebanon Housing Authority to see if they have ideas of how to do this. It was noted that a local musician is recording songs to send out by email to seniors. Mr. Gaffney noted that AVA's Senior Art has gone virtual but is popular enough to go to 2 days/week instead of 1 day/week. Ms. Foster mentioned that AVA's online art classes have been blessing for lots of people, but many still don't have access to computers.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Exploratory Funding and Processing:** (K. Zook, R. Welsch, S. Fiore, B. Van Vliet)
- B. Civic Art:** (J. Giordani, S. Fiore, B. Dunn)
- C. Programming:** (K. Zook, D. Wilkie, R. Foster)
- D. Publicity/Marketing:** (J. Clifford, J. Giordani, R. Foster)
- E. Data Collection:** (D. Wilkie, Katrina Geurkink-private citizen, R. Welsch, B. Van Vliet)

5. OPEN DISCUSSION:

Mr. Brooks mentioned that the graffiti park could involve a work project effort to get the park setup. Ms. Flythe mentioned that Recreation has a contractor they work with regularly who could help lead installation project.

Mr. Welsch noted that the Heritage Commission had received a grant from the NH Division of Historic Resources to update the current Colburn Park Historic District descriptions and boundaries.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

**A MOTION by Ms. Zook to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Mr. Gaffney.**

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Welsch, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Fiore, Ms. Foster, Mr. Van Vliet, Ms. Zook, and Chair Giordani,

***The Motion was approved (8-0)**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Brooks
Planning & Zoning Director