

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, JULY 28, 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), Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.), Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep; AVA Gallery), Rebecca Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1), Joe Clifford (Vice Chair), Devin Wilkie (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (City Council Rep.), and Sherry Fiore (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: David Brooks, Planning & Zoning Director,

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:41pm

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:** June 23, 2020

***A MOTION by Mr. Dunn to approve the June 23, 2020 Minutes as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Gaffney.***

Roll Call Vote:

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

Members abstaining included Mr. Wilkie and Mr. Clifford.

****The Motion was approved (6-0-2)***

3. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. **Discussion Re:** Friends of the ACC

No discussion

B. **Discussion Re:** Public Art

1. Graffiti Art in the Skate Park.

Chair Giordani recapped the Commission's support for Graffiti Art Wall project. Ms. Foster was not sure there had been any activity since the last meeting. Mr. Brooks noted that the Recreation Department remains eager to move the project forward. Chair Giordani suggested that the Programming Committee should feel free to move forward even if not all members are able to participate.

Mr. Dunn noted that he had recommended that some of the graffiti panels could be reserved for professional artists, while the remainder would be left open for the general public. It was noted that some people who regularly use the skatepark are also artists who might be interested in the

project. Mr. Dunn noted that it will be important to promote appropriate paints and products to not create any problems so close to the Mascoma River.

2. Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Chair Giordani noted that she had spoken with the City's Energy and Facilities Manager, Tad Montgomery, seeking more information about the size and height of the charging station surround. Mr. Dunn also spoke with Mr. Montgomery who noted that the surrounds could be a fence, wall or other material as large as 10'x10' on each side. Mr. Montgomery supported the idea of decorating the surrounds and suggested promoting clean and renewable energy.

Chair Giordani had photos of some other charging stations that have not incorporated art in the surrounds and noted that the City has an opportunity to do something unique.

3. Downtown Tunnel

Mr. Brooks gave an update on efforts to plan for trailblazing markings and signage to connect the tunnel to the Northern Rail Trail. He noted that the City Manager has asked staff and the Commission to begin planning for grand opening events in the Spring/Summer 2021.

4. Mascoma/Mechanic/High Sts Roundabout

Mr. Gaffney noted that he'd been contacted by Councilor Zook about identifying artists who could create art installations for the roundabout. Mr. Brooks noted that the state's portion of funding was programmed for 2022. Mr. Welsch noted that the City Manager has arranged for water and power to serve the roundabout for a potential fountain installation.

Mr. Gaffney asked if there will be a budget of any amount for an art installation. Mr. Brooks noted he did not think any funds were included in the infrastructure project budget. Mr. Dunn noted that this intersection is a highly visible location for an artist, even for a temporary installation.

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

Ms. Foster said she had communicated with Mr. Gaffney about the potential for a mural on the north side of the Senior Center building subject to funding availability. Mr. Gaffney said he had talked with several artists at AVA about the project.

Ms. Foster noted that Mr. Van Vliet had participated in the Senior Center's Grab&Go Program where seniors drive through the parking lot to pick up lunch and shelf staples. There were 65 cars in the first week of the program, 90 cars in the second week. The seniors very much appreciate the entertainment.

Ms. Foster heard from Lyme Properties about an upcoming "Truck and Trail" event at River Park. Food trucks will be present and the River Park trail will be opened. Chair Giordani noted that Mr. Clem had visited the Farmer's Market to recruit potential vendors. It is her understanding the public will be invited to grab a meal from a food truck and then go for a walk along the trail.

Mr. Gaffney mentioned that the Commission should begin thinking about WinterFest if the event is expected to happen this year. Mr. Van Vliet agreed and noted that the Commission should think about how the event could happen even during the current pandemic.

Mr. Van Vliet noted that it was important not to forget about the branding ideas that the Commission had previously discussed. He recommended even a simple 'word mark' to help people know that the Commission is involved in making events happen. Chair Giordani thought

it might be appropriate to restart the work group meetings to continue discussions about branding.

Mr. Dunn suggested that the granite posts around Colburn Park could be used to allow low cost, high-impact art ideas. Simple words, pictures, or other Lebanon-centric ideas could be appropriate.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Exploratory Funding and Processing: (K. Zook, R. Welsch, S. Fiore, B. Van Vliet)

No report.

B. Civic Art: (J. Giordani, S. Fiore, B. Dunn)

No report.

C. Programming: (K. Zook, D. Wilkie, R. Foster; N. Gaffney)

Ms. Foster noted that the Programming Committee had worked on a calendar of events and actions earlier in the year, but wasn't sure it was still relevant given the pandemic. Mr. Wilkie agreed that there was little point in reviving the calendar for 2020, but they should continue to be thinking of ideas for the future. Mr. Wilkie agreed to communicate with the Recreation Department to stay on top of upcoming events and schedules.

D. Publicity/Marketing: (J. Clifford, J. Giordani, R. Foster)

No report.

E. Data Collection: (D. Wilkie, Katrina Geurkink-private citizen, R. Welsch, B. Van Vliet)

No report.

5. OPEN DISCUSSION:

Mr. Welsch noted that the Heritage Commission has received a grant to study and update the Colburn Park Historic District. He noted that several properties around the Park are now eligible to be contributing structures. The study may also consider possible expansion of the district. Ms. Foster asked if a mural on the Senior Center building would be prohibited if the property were added to the historic district. Mr. Welsch noted that it would not. Mr. Welsch also noted that the Heritage Commission is also considering an historic district in West Lebanon.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

***A MOTION by Mr. Welsch to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Mr. Van Vliet.***

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Brooks

Planning & Zoning Director