

FINAL

**ARTS & CULTURE TASK FORCE
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
DHMC Auditorium A, Lebanon, NH
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Welsch (Heritage Commission Rep.), Sherry Fiore (Public Rep.), Devin Wilkie (Public Rep.), Chip Brown (Economic Vitality Rep.), Suzanne Prentiss (Mayor/City Council Rep.), Jessica Giordani (Local Art Rep.), Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)
MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Weber Valiante (Public Rep.), Joe Clifford (Local Art Rep.)
STAFF PRESENT: David Brooks (Planning and Zoning Director), City Manager Shaun Mulholland
GUESTS: Marianne L. Barthel (Arts Program Coordinator, D-H Arts Program)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Prentiss called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.
2. **Approval of Minutes: July 31, 2018**

A MOTION was made by Robert Welsch to approve the July 31, 2018 Minutes.

The MOTION was seconded by Devin Wilkie.

** The vote on the MOTION passed (7-0).*

Mayor Prentiss expressed appreciation to Dartmouth Hitchcock for hosting the Task Force.

Mayor Prentiss asked for discussion on takeaways from the last meeting. She said that her key takeaway was the suggestion to inventory Lebanon's cultural assets. Mr. Welsch discussed historic homes that should be included on the list of assets.

Ms. Giordani asked what the Task Force would be using as a working document or collaborative tool. Mr. Brooks will discuss with IT and the City Clerk what the options are and what restrictions there might be to collaboration. The Task Force discussed how best to collect new data and work with existing data. City Manager Mulholland suggested that SharePoint might be a viable option.

Mr. Wilkie noted that in Tripp's outline there was an exhaustive list of resources, some not specifically arts-focused, that may be valuable. Mr. Wilkie also noted that there were anchor points outside of the arts district in Tripp's presentation.

Mr. Welsch discussed the possible perception issues that exist with West Lebanon. Mr. Brown suggested that it may be possible to have two art districts. Mr. Welsch also discussed the pamphlet that he presented at the last meeting.

3. **Discussion Items:**

- A. Presentation of DHMC's Therapeutic Arts Program

Mrs. Barthel said that there are over 600 pieces of art spread throughout the Dartmouth Medical Center campuses. The aesthetic of the hospital encourages visitors to relax with art, piano, and landscaping. According to Mrs.

Barthel's presentation, research has shown that patients who could view nature had a more positive experience and had better outcomes. Mrs. Barthel discussed the health benefits of the arts in a medical setting. She presented research regarding the physiological changes that result from positive emotion and how it relates to art. She discussed the ongoing project of having art in every patient room. She discussed some of the potential unintended consequences that can result from people's complex responses to art.

DHMC has eight gallery spaces and approximately 650 linear feet of display space that is changed quarterly. Artists gain exposure and the hospital gets 25% from the sale of any pieces that are sold. There are musicians that play regularly in the rotunda and there is a harpist that plays in various departments. She discussed the process by which they find and collaborate with artists, local arts organizations, and local groups.

Mrs. Barthel discussed the many types of art programs that are happening at the hospital- visual arts, performing arts, creative arts, healing arts, the Aging Resource Center, and OSHER. She discussed the various types of programs and the various ways that art is presented throughout the hospital. Dartmouth also does research regarding art's impact on patients.

Mrs. Barthel presented potential future projects. They would like to partner with other organizations and offer art outreach for community health. They would like to have more concerts, sculpture gardens and tours, and more educational opportunities. They are willing to host events. She would like to become a top-notch research center for the arts. Mrs. Barthel referenced an article regarding telehealth art that could potentially improve outcomes in patients.

Mrs. Barthel concluded by saying that she is hoping that by partnering together, everyone can benefit. Mr. Brown noted that although there is a lot happening in the area, it would be good to coordinate efforts. Mr. Welsch asked how DHMC plans to engage the community. Mrs. Barthel said that the 'patient experience' is an important goal of the hospital and the art program is an integral piece of positive patient experiences. She discussed the art and music therapies that are being offered. The group discussed the potential for improving patient experiences using art events and opportunities within the community.

B. Review and Comment to City Council re: Downtown Lebanon Tunnel Alternatives

Mayor Prentiss gave a brief background of the tunnel discussions. City Council had suggested that the Arts & Culture Task Force should be made aware of the proposed tunnel alternatives. City Manager Mulholland presented the Downtown Visioning Study. He reviewed each of the key concepts contained in the presentation. The Lebanon Tunnel Overview contained photos of the tunnel, including the maintenance issues. City Manager Mulholland presented the three tunnel options. There is widespread support for allowing connectivity while minimizing vehicular traffic.

The group discussed the pros and cons of the various proposals. Mayor Prentiss spoke about what potential opportunities might exist for the arts. Councilor Zook said that it is also important to consider maintenance costs. City Councilor Mulholland said that the city is considering video cameras and lighting to ensure safety. He showed examples of potential designs.

There is a community conversation happening next week and the Council has asked for input from the city's committees. Mrs. Barthel suggested using the tunnel to promote local artists and organizations. Mayor Prentiss said that the Task Force will need to decide on a recommendation and in the future the Task Force will likely be involved in making decisions regarding the use of art.

Mr. Brown talked about potential development of the site in the future and the potential for increased tax revenue. Options 1 and 2 both offer full connectivity. The group discussed the under utilization of the land along the river. It was agreed that a final recommendation would wait until the rest of the Task Force members could offer their perspective. It was also discussed that the Arts & Culture Task Force would like to have input on the design elements of the tunnel that would facilitate art.

C. Action Plan for Completing Inventory of Cultural Assets in Lebanon

See discussion that was had at the beginning of the meeting regarding key takeaways.

4. **Future Agenda Items:**
5. **Next Meeting Date: September 4, 2018 at Colburn Park.**
6. **Other Business:**
7. **Adjournment:**

A MOTION was made by Jessica Giordani adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.

The MOTION was seconded by Chip Brown.

** The vote on the MOTION passed (7-0).*

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Sailors-Dow
Recording Secretary