

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, AUGUST 25, 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), Joe Clifford (Vice Chair), Devin Wilkie (Citizen Rep., Ward 2), and Karen Zook (City Council Rep.),

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1), and Sherry Fiore (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: David Brooks, Planning & Zoning Director

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

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: July 28, 2020

Page 2, Line 28 – remove the first ‘for’.

***A MOTION by Mr. Dunn to approve the July 28, 2020 Minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Welsch.***

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Discussion Re: Friends of the ACC

Mr. Brooks will communicate with the consultant on the status of the effort.

B. Discussion Re: Public Art

1. Graffiti Art in the Skate Park.

Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Wilkie noted there had been efforts to arrange a meeting among the Programming Committee and the Recreation Department to move the project forward, but no meeting had occurred yet. Mr. Wilkie will continue to pursue a meeting.

2. Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Mr. Dunn summarized recent communications with Energy and Facilities Manager, Tad Montgomery, relative to the charging station. He noted that the original location at the end of

Taylor Street, near Spencer Street, was not an option due to unresolved questions about ownership, but another City-owned location along Taylor Street was now under consideration.

3. Downtown Tunnel

Mr. Brooks noted that a grand opening event was tentatively being planned for May 2021 and that the Commission should begin thinking about art in the tunnel, including paintings and/or sculptures. Mr. Brooks noted that the contractor has requested to control access into the tunnel through the winter to enable the project to be finished on time.

Mr. Welsch asked about getting artists into the tunnel prior to the grand opening. Mr. Gaffney noted that AVA Gallery was particularly interested in assisting with programming and fundraising to hire artists for the project. Mr. Dunn suggested that having some art projects “in progress” could be a great option to allow the public to see the art happening.

Mr. Brooks will confirm whether and when artists could access the tunnel to begin work. Mr. Van Vliet asked for information on what kind of light, sound, and power was incorporated into the construction project.

4. Mascoma/Mechanic/High Sts Roundabout

Mr. Gaffney recalled there was a long-term plan for a fountain or installation once the roundabout was installed, but also that there was a short-term plan for an installation until the roundabout and/or fountain is ready. He asked what kind of limitations would apply to putting an art installation there on a temporary basis.

Mr. Dunn noted that if the fountain is not anticipated for 2-3 years, that would be 2-3 years where an artist could be featured in that location. Chair Giordani asked for additional information about what might be acceptable in terms of temporary installations prior to the roundabout project.

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

Chair Giordani noted the Recreation Department is still interested in putting a winter celebration (‘Tis the Season) event together, but that planning has not yet started. She advised the Recreation Department that the Commission remains interested in participating. Mr. Welsch noted that any event should be planned and executed in a safe context relative to COVID.

Mr. Gaffney noted he and Ms. Foster had been working on developing an online art class.

Mr. Gaffney asked whether the Commission wanted to undertake the fountain cover project this year. He noted that AVA Gallery is not expecting to hold in-person student ArtStop classes until late September at the earliest and that the classes will be limited in size. AVA has determined that the basement level of the building is not an appropriate space to work on the fountain covers. He asked for ideas of other locations where fountain covers could be painted, but still protected from weather. Members suggested the CCBA pavilion, the Riverside Skatepark pavilion, the Lebanon Pool pavilion, or the Storrs Hill Ski Lodge as options.

Ms. Zook noted that it might be possible to not repaint them this year since they were still in good condition at the end of last year. Chair Giordani suggested looking further into alternative locations, but that if logistics do not work out, the panels are still in good enough condition to be reused as is.

Ms. Zook noted that the City Hall renovation has resulted in several new locations for potential art or a sculpture installations in the building. Mr. Dunn suggested that the Commission request permission to have fixed location in City Hall for rotating arts exhibits. Mr. Van Vliet agreed that

rotating exhibits help highlight arts creativity and vibrancy. Mr. Gaffney agreed and noted that time and funds may need to be budgeted so that the exhibits are done well.

Chair Giordani noted that she hoped to meet with Mr. Clifford, Mr. Van Vliet, Mr. Dunn and Tommy Reidy to review branding opportunities for discussion at a future meeting.

Mr. Welsch suggested the Heritage Commission might also like a fixed location for exhibits in City Hall. Mr. Welsch noted that the Heritage Commission has received a grant to study and update the Colburn Park Historic District and has selected a consultant for the project.

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)

No report.

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)

Chair Giordani noted that Katrina Geukink may be moving out of the area and will not be able to continue participating on the work group.

5. OPEN DISCUSSION:

Mr. Brooks mentioned that Ms. Fiore had noted that Tuesday's were not good for her and asked whether the Commission was open to considering new dates and times for meetings. Chair Giordani asked if staff would assist with polling to determine alternative dates and times.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Brooks
Planning & Zoning Director