

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 22, 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.), Joe Clifford (Vice Chair), Devin Wilkie (Citizen Rep., Ward 2), Rebecca Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1), and Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep; AVA Gallery) and Sherry Fiore (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: David Brooks, Planning & Zoning Director; Shaun Mulholland, City Manager; Paul Coats, Recreation & Parks Director; Krissy Flythe, Recreation Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

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: August 25, 2020

***A MOTION by Mr. Dunn to approve the August 25, 2020 Minutes as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Welsch.***

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

NOTE: Various agenda items were taken out of order by the Commission and were heard in the order reflected by these minutes.

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

D. Discussion Re: Lebanon Artways Branding Project

Vice-Chair Clifford recognized members of the Publicity Committee as well as community member Tommy Reidy for their work on the project. He noted that the Committee's proposal is to engage a professional artist to create a wordmark of "Lebanon Artways" as an iconic and recognizable visual cue to the Commission's work to bring art the community, support local artists and arts organizations, and to enrich the lives of City residents and visitors. The proposal would be advertised though the City's website and newsletter, AVA Gallery, and other sources to identify an artist to undertake the project. The Committee's goal is to identify an artist prior to the Commission's October meeting.

Vice-Chair Clifford made a motion to allocate \$2,000 to pursue the Lebanon Artways Branding Project and to accept the creative project brief included in the agenda packet for distribution to interested parties.

Seconded by Mr. Welsch.

Several members noted the importance of supporting the local arts community during these difficult times and for being willing to pay for high-quality, professional level work. Chair Giordani expressed support for the proposal as an important step to move the Commission forward.

Vice-Chair Clifford noted that since many organizations are not creating art due to the pandemic, this is an opportunity for the Commission to support the arts community. Mr. Dunn noted several of the projects the Commission is currently engaged in for which the workmark could be used. Mr. Van Vliet noted this is an opportunity to highlight Commission's role in the local community and the importance of retaining a local artist for the project. Members agreed with the idea of supporting local artists through the project.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

E. Discussion Re: Anticipated Changes to Commission Staff Support

City Manager Mulholland noted anticipated administrative changes to have the Commission be supported by the Recreation Department instead of the Planning Department. The long-term goal is to raise the profile of arts and culture beyond just a Commission and to have it housed in a department that also works with the arts and culture community. Budgeted funds would move over to the Recreation Department in support the proposal.

Mr. Coats expressed enthusiasm for the Recreation Department providing staff support for the Commission going forward.

B. Discussion Re: Public Art**1. Graffiti Art in the Skate Park.**

Ms. Flythe summarized recent meetings with Commission members. There was a meeting at Riverside Park site to identify potential locations for eight art panels for the proposed "Graffiti Park at Riverside". Ms. Flythe mentioned the rules to be applied to the park operation and noted that the goal is to get the project started before winter. Mr. Dunn suggested that a vote of the Commission would express its enthusiastic support.

Ms. Flythe noted that the eight panels are expected to cost approximately \$1000 for materials.

**A MOTION by Mr. Welsch to allocate \$1,000 toward the Graffiti Park at Riverside.
Seconded by Mr. Wilkie.**

Mr. Dunn summarized prior comments from the Commission about keeping the panels elevated for safety and visibility and that guidelines for appropriate paints and supplies be prominently displayed to prevent pollution concerns near the river.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

2. Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Mr. Coats spoke with Tad Montgomery for an update on the project. It was noted that this topic might need to be tabled with respect to the Commission's role for public art around the charging

station. Montgomery has been working with Electrify America to pursue a second location and those conversations are still underway.

3. Downtown Tunnel

Mr. Brooks noted that the tunnel opening remains scheduled for May 2021. He summarized communications with City Engineer Brian Vincent that, subject to changes in the contractor's schedule, Mr. Vincent does not foresee people being allowed into the tunnel to begin artistic work until perhaps April or May. Mr. Vincent also noted that the project plans do not include outlets or connections for event lighting or equipment due to budget constraints and several notable changes have already impacted the remaining available budget and project schedule. Mr. Brooks noted that improvements for performances could still be added later. Mr. Dunn noted that once the tunnel is open, it might be possible to tap into local enthusiasm to get improvements added.

4. Mascoma/Mechanic/High Sts Roundabout

Mr. Brooks noted that the City Engineer expressed doubts about the idea of placing art installations in or near the intersection due to the existing confusion associated with the intersection. Mr. Dunn noted that art can be created in many different forms and could even be part of helping to guide drivers through the intersection.

A. Discussion Re: Friends of the ACC

There was no update on the project.

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

Chair Giordani noted that the Commission needs to make decisions about the Colburn Park fountain covers project. Colton Orr, Board member at AVA, noted that he can help coordinate getting the cover panels decorated again this year. Chair Giordani noted that Nick Gaffney was communicating with Karl Neubauer about the after school ArtStop program. It was noted that if there is not enough time to redecorate them this year in time for a Halloween unveiling, they could be reinstalled with last year's paintings.

Mr. Dunn noted that it does not need to be student centered project if that would help facilitate getting them repainted this year. Chair Giordani noted that she would reach out to AVA.

Mr. Van Vliet asked if the Recreation Department would be undertaking a 'Tis the Season event this winter. Ms. Flythe noted that recent CDC guidelines may help facilitate a Halloween event, but it is unclear what guidance will be in place later in the year. She noted that both Halloween and 'Tis the Season will be more low-key events than in previous years.

Mr. Van Vliet noted that the Upper Valley Music Center is planning to spread out programs over a period of time rather than a scheduling a one-day event. Ms. Foster asked if events will be in-person or virtual. Mr. Van Vliet noted that there will be some virtual programs, but they would like to have some in-person programs if possible.

Mr. Coats noted that the Recreation Department will be looking at expanding seasonal decorations, including in West Lebanon. Mr. Welsch and Ms. Foster noted the importance of including events and programs in West Lebanon. Mr. Van Vliet noted that "decentralization" is part of responding to the pandemic, which supports the idea of spreading events and programs around the entire City. Mr. Welsch noted that the public is getting more comfortable with virtual meetings and programs.

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)

No report.

5. OPEN DISCUSSION:

Gavin Winkoop Fisher, community member, noted that several artists are working on a pumpkin carving event. Mr. Dunn noted that high-visibility events are the kind of programs the Commission wants to support for maximum community impact and benefit. Mr. Fisher noted additional ideas for how to spread events and programs around the community.

Ms. Foster asked about supporting opportunities for music events for bands that are having trouble lining up performances. She said the Upper Valley Senior Center is still planning to have music through the end of October as part of the Grab and Go program which continues to be popular and successful.

Chair Giordani noted that if AVA develops plans for the pumpkin carving event, then the Commission can help with promotion through the City's website and elsewhere.

Mr. Orr asked about the Halloween Funfest and whether the Recreation Department intends to proceed with event planning. Mr. Coats noted that the Recreation Department will be making a decision soon as to whether and how to proceed and would like to coordinate with AVA to the extent possible.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION by Mr. Dunn to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Welsch.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Brooks
Planning & Zoning Director