

Arts Commission

June 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom

Meeting Attendees

- Voting Members: Cindy Bechtol, Amanda Saleh, Sarah Chamberlin, Allison Robbins
- Absent: Jay Linhardt, Eleanore Eye
- Ex-Officio: Mason Floyd
- Guests: Sara Lawson, Warrensburg Star-Journal

Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda (Motion/ Discussion)

- Sarah moved to approve the agenda, Allison seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes (Motion/ Discussion)

- Sarah moved to approve the minutes from April 5 and April 14, Cindy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Welcome to New Commissioner

- Allison introduced the new commissioner, Amanda Saleh. Amanda and other commissioners introduced themselves and provided brief details about themselves.

Updates from the City

- Mason provided updates on the budget amendment, t shirts, maps, etc. The budget amendment was approved by the City Council at the last meeting (May 24). T-shirts for the JC Carter Scavenger Hunt are ready and at his desk. Allison said she will pick them up prior to the July First Friday event. Maps for the scavenger hunt were also printed and left for Sarah to pick up, and she confirms she did a week ago.

Edit and Vote to Approve Budget Request Fiscal Year 2022

- Allison began sharing her screen with a draft of the Commission's FY22 budget.
- Sarah stated the proposed budget for maintenance seemed adequate.
- Allison mentioned the schools and seminars budget is intended for a Missouri Arts seminar, if any Commission member would be interested.
- The program supplies budget is mainly for First Fridays, but Allison asked for other program ideas. There was discussion about whether the Commission would even continue organizing and funding the First Friday events. Sarah said to keep money in for First Fridays, just in case. But also wants to seek feedback from businesses to see their thoughts. Primarily, she does not want to pass the program back and forth with Main Street.

- Main Street has asked the Arts Commission wants to turn back over the First Fridays event to Main Street again.
- Amanda asked what past complaints were from downtown businesses. Allison said it was about communication with the businesses and the promotion of events. Sarah said the complaints are rooted in instability. The Commission's job is to promote and support, not a whole lot else we have to do. It should not be a huge expense or organizational effort needed.
- The rent/lease budget is a carryover from the past storage conundrums, which everyone agreed was too difficult to do again. Rent/lease will not work, so it's best to keep the proposed budget at zero. Sarah asked what we will do with JC Carter sculptures after the scavenger hunt is over in August. Allison proposed moving that discussion to July agenda.
- Allison shared that Aerin was working on kinetic sculpture before she stepped down. Allison said Amanda would be a great person to start that. Amanda agreed she would be interested in a project like that, but as she is new to the Commission she would be quite unsure how to begin. Allison supported Amanda's statement she does not know where to start and said none of them did, but an appropriate line-item in the budget is a good place to start.
- Allison asked Cindy about the community theater's status. Cindy said there is a group trying to help community theaters get back up nationally. They are providing free access to specific popular Broadway music, but it has to be performed during a specific time in November.
 - Allison asked if there were guidelines about charging for tickets from this since it was royalty-free. Cindy said yes, the Community Theater can, and should, charge for tickets and take this however they want to go.
 - Cindy said the problem is in finding, and paying for, a place to house the performance. Sarah asked about a couple days at Milestones during the week so it would be cheaper than a weekend. Cindy asked about cost of Milestones, Sarah said it was \$750 for a Friday night when they rented it for Animal Shelter. Sarah said it was out of city limits and asked if that would make a difference from city perspective. Mason said legally no, politically yes.
- Allison asked about expectation of budgeting revenue projections. Allison then asked if it would be bad to not budget for donations but bring them in, and Mason said no, bringing in more revenue than budgeted is always good. Sarah asked about tax donation letters, Cindy said it has been done in the past. Allison said no one applied for grants this year but we want to promote more. Allison also wants to look back over the amount we give and requirements for receipt.
 - Amanda asked to confirm that last year we had no proposals? Allison said we had one that was for event that occurred already, and another found funding elsewhere in the interim.
 - Sarah proposed doing 4 grants for \$750 each and having a deadline. Then we can advertise better. Allison said the more we can advertise and fund without organizing art/programs, the better.
- Sarah moved to approve the budget request, Amanda seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

- Allison discussed potential of moving meeting time/days going forward.

- Next meeting will be Tuesday July 6th at 4 p.m. to accommodate Independence Day holiday.

Amanda left the meeting at 4:45 p.m., so quorum was lost.

Liaison for Warrensburg Main Street

- The previous Commission chair had asked Warrensburg Main Street to add a permanent liaison position, which was previously filled by Aerin Sentgeorge prior to her resignation.
- Allison asked if this position was something the Commission would be interested in maintaining or if they would rather pursue different means of communication with Main Street.
- Sarah proposed the Commission abandon the liaison role and intentionally do better about inviting Main Street to the monthly meetings to share their art-related information.
- The Arts Commissions job should be to promote art and Main Street should create art, so there shouldn't be a concern about encroachment.

Update on Ongoing Projects

- JC Carter Scavenger Hunt
 - Allison shared that all sculptures are out at their locations and the map has been posted on the Commission's Facebook page.
 - Allison is going to post about the sculptures and their locations, and she will tag the businesses where they are located.
- First Fridays
 - Sarah shared that the June event went okay but she and Allison both left with more ideas. Sarah suggested someone from the Commission do a Facebook Live video at the July event.
 - Allison asked if having the JC Carter maps at the community booth at Old Drum Days would be sufficient or if a dedicated Arts Commission booth would be necessary.
 - Allison shared she is doing more on the First Fridays now, as it has become aware that the previous organizer is doing less.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.