

## Arts Commission

July 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom

### **Meeting Attendees**

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

### **Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum**

- Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

### **Approval of Agenda (Motion/Discussion)**

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

### **Approval of Minutes (Motion/Discussion)**

- Sarah moved to approve the minutes from June meeting, Allison seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Updates from the City**

- Prior to the meeting, Mason shared balance sheet and income statement with Allison. She shared screen to show recent charges.

### **Updates on Ongoing Projects**

#### **(a) JC Carter Sculpture Scavenger Hunt**

- 3 people completed the scavenger hunt and were able to pick up t-shirt. It is possible more people completed the scavenger hunt but were not able to get the shirt yet.
- An idea was proposed to use trivia contests through the Facebook page to give away extra shirts, if there are some left at the end of August.
- There was discussion about advertising the scavenger hunt and First Fridays, generally. There might be interest in trying to get a short, recurring spot on KOKO to discuss scavenger hunt, art walk, art grants, etc.

#### **(b) First Fridays - looking forward to August**

- Allison solicited suggestions from artists and participants on how to improve the event.
  - Many shared that having music helped with the atmosphere.
  - Some vendors said it was better than June but still not ideal.
- Allison suggested the Commission aim to do their best for this season then start planning for 2022 earlier.
- Sarah suggested using the Arts Commission Facebook page directly to advertise for the First Fridays to not divert followers. There was previously a page specifically to the event that didn't have as many followers.

- Allison shared that First Friday page had 800 followers versus the main page's 500 followers.
- Jay shared background on the separate page. He said that he was admin for the First Friday page then handed it over to Main Street when they took over the event, then it went to LJ Lockhart when she ran it, and now it is back to the Commission.
- Consensus to look into merging the two Facebook pages in the future, but Allison suggests keeping status quo for this season.
- Jay suggested the separate community group page could share the Commission's posts to ensure the maximum reach.
- Sarah suggested we use First Friday page to promote and like the Arts Commission page.
- Jay said the best chance for success for the event is when we have a long time to plan and prepare, as time and effort had led to people attending in the past.
  - Allison said getting more artists on board and getting them sooner is good, as well as going to the art community itself to seek vendors.
  - Allison believes the past Commission chair wanted to automate the process and see if it could run itself. However, to make a good event you can't rely on people to find you or remember stuff.
  - Allison: Students will be back in August/September so she can reach out to art professors to recruit more artists for those remaining few art walks.
  - Sarah: September 2<sup>nd</sup> is the "Get the Red Out" event, so having a table would be good to advertise as the art walk will be the next day.

**(c) Warrensburg Main Street Selfie Project (Sarah)**

- Sarah updated the Commission on this project she heard Main Street discuss at their last meeting. At the meeting, they voted on and agreed upon 3 mural proposals. The proposals weren't as she expected, nor what Main Street were set on, so they may revisit the plan.
- Allison asked to confirm they were just discussing submissions. Sarah said yes, they also discussed locations for the mural a bit but nothing is official.
- Allison said for the Commission's purpose it is good to know this project is going on and to keep in mind going forward so we don't accidentally try to compete.
- Allison: It's also interesting to see the quantity and quality of proposals that other groups receive when they call for artwork. This can provide a benchmark for when the Commission has similar requests.
- Sarah agreed, saying they did have some good submissions, but there were others that were from graphic designers that may not be able to translate to paint easily.

**Appointment of New Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary**

- Sarah said she is open to doing one of the roles but wanted to warn others she has a lot on her plate, so she doesn't want to promise too much.
- Allison wanted to hear her share her vision for the roles before anything formally occurred. She said she would be willing to be Chair if the group desired, Cindy and Sarah agreed. She also said Sarah would be a good Vice Chair, Cindy agreed. Lastly, she said Cindy, Ellie, or Amanda would be good secretary. Jay would be too if we are able to move the meeting times permanently to accommodate him.

- Cindy asked about duties for each position, including if the role of Secretary can be shared. Mason said there are no formal requirements for Secretary, so it is up to the Commission to decide how that is handled. However, it is required by ordinance to have someone serving in that role. These requirements can also be changed if the Commission wants, and City Council approves.
- Allison as Chair, Sarah as Vice Chair, and Amanda as Secretary.
- Cindy motioned for Allison to serve as Chair, Sarah as Vice Chair, and Amanda as Secretary. Sarah seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Art in Public Places**

### **a) Graffiti Road Project proposed by constituent**

- Infinite smiles emailed Allison asking if Commission would be interested in a graffiti road.
- This individual will also be at August meeting to answer any additional questions from the Commission.
- Allison shared she reached out to the Public Works director of the city. She was told if this was a private road, there would simply need to be permission from the property owner. If a public road, it would need council approval.
- Allison thinks this would be cool to have people participate in this as a community art form.
- It was discussed that a potential challenge would be how we handle others vandalizing or spray painting their own stuff that is vulgar.
- Cindy said this graffiti-type project used to happen at the old Highway 13 bridge, and people still go out and take pictures; not sure if bridge is still blocked off or anything.
- Jay thought that censorship of anybody's graffiti contribution could be a slippery slope.
- Cindy proposed doing it with chalk every First Friday as an experiment and it would also be more temporary

### **b) Other local efforts - Billy Beale Statue**

- A group had been working on fundraiser for a Commissioned statue of Billy Beale, but donations and support have started to peter out.
- The Arts Commission is able to support the project if interested, it just needs to be discussed at a later meeting.

### **c) Brainstorming for future APP projects (Amanda)**

- Amanda has kinetic sculptures and other ideas for consideration. She will discuss them, if present, at the August meeting.

## **Community Theater November Performance**

- Cindy said they have now released far more information on the potential community theater show that was discussed at the June meeting. The potential is even better than she previously thought.
- It is entirely royalty-free, and the theater would have access to 30 different songs. The songs are divided into 15 categories, and you pick 1 of the 2 songs from each.
- This broad freedom would allow the community theater to be flexible based on who auditions as they can do whatever they want with the music.

- Cindy estimates that the savings from doing this performance for free versus paying for it as a community is about \$2500, as vocal/piano scores and accompaniment tracks are also provided for free. Posters and social media graphics are also provided for free.
- The only restriction is that this must take place between November 12-15, but they can do the performance as many times in those days and charge as much as we want.
- Cindy said this is a huge opportunity, but we have to figure out what to do with it.
- Sarah said she knows UCM and high school kids that have been looking for ways to get involved in community theater, so this could be good to channel those interests.
- Cindy desires intergenerational and multicultural involvement in this performance.
- Cindy asked: if this is a big fundraiser, could the revenue be earmarked for performance arts grants?
  - Sarah agreed that it would be good for the buy-in of kids.
  - People are looking for outlets for creativity and involvement, so how can we provide that for them?
- Question for Mason: could these earmarks occur in the city? Would it go to the Commission, and they earmark? Or could council earmark?
  - Mason said all revenues would stay within the Commission's budget. As far as earmarking further, he didn't believe so, that it would have to be a mental note by the Commission rather than formally done. However, he said he would check to confirm.
- Allison then asked if it is something the Commission has the desire and manpower to do.
- Sarah asked if this could potentially allow for junior Commission members, as that would be possible to increase young generation buy-in.
- Allison senses support for November performance, so a separate meeting in July with a few Commission members would be had, so they can have everything ready at the August meeting.
- Allison suggested a meeting between Cindy and Sarah and herself to begin planning and preparing for the August meeting.

## Discussions

### a) NEA American Rescue Plan Grants, due August 12

- Allison wondered if it were worth the time because the turnaround is short and project amounts are huge. There was not much buy-in from the Commission.

## Next Meeting

- Allison asked if we should stick with Tuesdays, and whether people would prefer in-person or virtual.
- Everyone agreed Tuesday would work just fine, since there is no requirement for current meeting times.
- Cindy also asked if the 4 p.m. time was necessary as well.
- Sarah said 5 p.m. or later works best for her schedule.
- Next meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> on Zoom at 5 p.m.

## Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.