

# CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

## Cultural Arts Commission

### Minutes

February 10, 2021

Members Present: Karen Askin, Helen Aberger, Francis Bevington, Therese Capal, Liliane Blom, Patricia Dubroof, Howie Jung, Melissa Law, Connor Lee, Robert Summers-Berger,

Members Absent: Heather Thompson

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Fran Miller

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

#### **Re: Approval of the Minutes**

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the January 13, 2021 meeting.

#### **Re: Councilmember Report**

The next Mayor and Council meeting on February 22 will receive the proposed FY22 budget. Budget work sessions are scheduled for March 1 and April 12. The best time to bring anything up before Mayor and Council is before April 12 presentation. We will have a tight budget next year. The City has lots of CIP projects coming up for City properties, including the outdoor swimming pool renovation, RedGate Park, King Farm Homestead and 6 Taft Court. CAC members asked about budgeting for the two Art in Public Places projects. Even though funding is dedicated to art project the council thinks the optics are not good to bring those project forward.

#### **Re: Chairperson's Report**

No report

#### **Re: Staff Report**

- Staff met with TransCo Gas Company regarding easement on Gateway Project sculpture placement. The sculpture would need to be moved further down the hill due to the easement requirements. The move would lose the overall impact of the sculpture. Other potential sites are being considered for the sculpture.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival planning committee has selected John Edgar Wideman to be this year's honoree at the annual Festival in October of 2021.
- Adventure Theater has been contracted to run theater camps with the City this summer.

**Re: Arts in Public Places**

- Betty Wisda presented updates on the Gateway Project as a follow-up to the Mayor and Council questions regarding the mitigation plans to reduce risks:
- Shrubberies will be placed around the base to deter climbing on sculpture using the City's horticulturalists recommendations.
- No climbing signage.
- Staff drafted an outreach tool to the community to include the Gateway sculpture image with other works such as "The Awakening" for comparison.
- Staff met with Transco Gas Co. regarding safety easements for the gas pipeline near the sculpture. Transco clarified that the sculpture would need to move 50 feet away from the gas line for equipment to access the gas line for repairs or expansion. This requirement moves the sculpture further down the hill and maybe too low to make the intended impact. Staff and AIPP subcommittee are exploring community feedback about other potential sites for the sculpture to be placed.
- Staff is working with contracting service to repair Crossroads in Town Center.
- Skate Park Art Project will be coming up next with a \$14,000 budget. Plan to begin in July with the artist nomination committee.
- Swim Center Art project budget needs to be added to the budget amendment. Patricia motioned for Karen to draft and submit the Cultural Arts Commission's support of appropriating funds to support the Swim Center Art project in the upcoming budget amendment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Staff intends to present the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project to the Mayor and Council in March.

**Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Creatives Summit Planning Task Force**

- Helen was able to connect with Frances about the motion made in January to broaden the focus groups. The task force will follow up with groups the CAC met before, then broaden the groups' scope by moving to a series of workshops, conversations, focus groups.

- The question came up about when International Night will be held. The event will be held virtually on April 23, 2021.
- Robert expressed interest in working with high school students. Then the CAC members discussed the benefits of adding a Young Ambassador Program similar to the Human Rights Commission. More details would be needed to establish a CAC Young Ambassador Program.

**Re: Human Rights Commission**

Connor reported on the following information from the last Human Rights Commission meeting:

HRC will be surveying the community to learn more about the impacts of COVID on various populations. Conner will provide updates at future meetings as much of the details are to be determined.

**Re: Old Business**

Frances and Robert presented the proposed changes to the Cultural Arts Commission's responsibilities outlined in the City's Ordinance. Commission members went through the proposed wording and make edits. With edits, the motion was made to have City staff move the CAC's suggested modifications to the City Attorney's office.

**Re: New Business**

Karen shared the idea from a Washington Post on Little Art Gallery. The idea would be for the City to offer little art galleries throughout the City. An alternative could be to use city property or parks to create an outside tour.

**Re: Announcements**

Patricia Dubroof has been asked to join the board of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival this year. She will be looking for volunteers, incorporated better outreach and exposure for the Festival this fall. The Festival was successfully held virtually last fall and may do the same this fall if necessary.

**Re: Next Meeting**

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

**Re: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.