

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

March 10, 2021

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

Members Absent: Melissa Law

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, Laura Creech

Guests Present: Gabrielle Zwi, Fran Miller

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the February 10, 2021 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

The Mayor and Council meeting on March 8 were disheartening. They are putting off the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center art project. Even though the funding is dedicated to the art project, the Council thinks the optics are not suitable to bring the project forward at this time. Mark suggested commission members attend community forums to express their concerns. He also said some Councilmembers need to learn more about how the funding works for Arts in Public Places and Arts in Public Architecture.

Re: Chairperson's Report

No report

Re: Staff Report

- Rockville Art League sponsored a virtual art exhibit with 43 entries related to the Glenview Mansion.
- Staff is working on a brochure for a City-run organization to get information about Rockville Civic Ballet, Chorus, and Concert Band.
- Mayor and Council making decisions on holding Hometown Holidays, Suds and Soles Race and Independence Day events at the March 15 meeting.

- Staff considering the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Project – using grant monies to create artwork at street corners to enhance pedestrian safety and traffic calming. Looking into it more and at potential sites. CAC should consider supporting this project. Andy asked for suggested theme ideas to present at the next meeting. Members suggested trees, flowers, unity, commitment to the environment, sustainability, and potential locations in Rockville, and the possibility of involving local students and artists in the projects.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Betty Wisda deferred her report to concentrate more time on what to do about the Rockville Swim Center Art project delay.
- Discussion on how to address the uncertainty on the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project.
 - Suggested having a written script for dialog with council members supporting the project and expressing its importance and the value of art on health and well-being.
 - Educating the Councilmembers on the differences between Arts in Public Places and Art in Public Architecture.
 - Attend public forums and meetings.
 - Motion made by Karen Askin to create a draft of talking points and a letter for Mayor and Council and discuss at next meeting.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Creatives Summit Planning Task Force

- Helen is setting up regular meetings two weeks before the monthly CAC meetings, searching for a day that works best for sub-committee members.
- For the focus groups, the task force plans to use existing organizations the CAC has met with before and then expand to new businesses.
- Plan to survey existing organizations and other performing arts groups and organizations on how COVID-19 has impacted them and the art scene.
- Create informal programming for Arts Sessions on various subjects.
- Plan to watch the virtual International Night on April 23 at 8 p.m. for potential organizations to add to the list. Viewable on Rockville 11 with Live Chat During YouTube Premiere: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofrockville>

Re: Human Rights Commission

- Connor reported that Pride would be held in June.
- Rockville is the 7th most ethnically diverse city in the U.S.
- The Human Rights Commission is still looking for judges for the Multi-media Scholarship competition. Let Connor know if you are interested.

Re: Old Business

- Connor presented a proposal for the CAC student ambassador program. The

purpose is to provide Rockville students the opportunity to engage with the CAC and Rockville government in promoting the arts. Commission members tentatively moved the proposal back until a better time. Support for the program would be difficult at this time.

Re: New Business

- Rockville Economic Development Inc. is formulating a project along East Gude Drive in east Rockville “East Rock” to promote the arts. They are trying to define a cultural arts district with microbreweries and art groups. Mark will provide more information later.
- Helen Aberger is pushing “the business of art” or artists as creative business and the primary focus not secondary like breweries have live music.

Re: Announcements

None

Re: Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.