

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes
May 12, 2021

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

Members Absent: None

Councilmember Absent: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andrew Lett., Betty Wisda

Other: Gabrielle Zwi

Karen Askin, Chairperson, 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 for the April 14, 2021 meeting.

Re: Chairperson's Report

Karen Askin reported on the following items.

1. She congratulated Therese Capal and Patricia Dubroof on their reappointments for another term to serve on the Cultural Arts Commission.
2. Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project at the Mayor and Council meeting on May 10.

Re: Councilmember Report

No Report.

Re: Staff Report

1. Members of the Rockville Concert Band were filmed performing "The National Anthem", "Taps", and two patriotic songs on April 29 on the patio of Glenview Mansion. The video of their music will be included in the City of Rockville's virtual Memorial Day Ceremony.

2. The Rockville Concert Band started in-person rehearsals on Tuesday, May 4 on the deck of Redgate.
3. The Rockville Chorus will continue virtual rehearsals on Monday evenings through May 24.
4. The Board of Directors of the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation selected Rockville Art League (RAL) for the Community Contribution Award. Their selection was based on the partnership with the Arts Division for use of their software to receive applications for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center and the Rockville Gateway Art Projects as well as presenting virtual art exhibits; such as, "For the Love of Glenview" during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The President of the foundation will present the award to Patrick Sieg, President of RAL, at the meeting of the Mayor and Council at 7 p.m. on June 21.
5. Craig Kraft has been issued a Purchase Order and will schedule the repair work for "Crossroads" on the Facade of the Arts and Innovation Center in Rockville Town Square Plaza.
6. The City Attorney's Office will obtain the signatures of the City Manager and the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations for the contract between the City and Debora Rodrigues, Owner of Past Matters, LLC, for restoration work on "Spirit of Rockville" at Courthouse Square Park and "Untitled" on the Island in front of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at Rockville Civic Center Park.
7. The presentation of the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project to the Mayor and Council at their meeting on May 10. Liliane Blom and Patricia Dubroof, members of the Artist Nomination Committee and members of the Art in Public Places Committee, made the presentation. These Cultural Arts Commissioners and staff were available for questions that evening.
8. The Mayor and Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget.

Re: Task Force/Committee Updates

Art in Public Places

Betty Wisda reported the following items.

1. The Mayor and Council unanimously approved the \$100,000 commission to Matthew Geller for his sculpture for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center on May 10. The Cultural Arts Commission agreed that future public art projects be presented by the Commissioners to the Mayor and Council. The Commissioners also agreed that Commissioners need to be writing letters and speaking to the Mayor and Council expressing their support for the public art projects. The Commissioner agreed to send a letter to the Mayor and Council thanking them for voting in favor of this public art project. The Commissioners thanked Andy Lett and Betty Wisda for their time and effort with preparation of the presentation for this art project.
2. The Commissioners discussed the Rockville Gateway Art Project. The Commissioners need to show their support for this art project.

3. The Commissioners discussed the following items: local artists, local contractors, emerging artists, workshops, and temporary art installations.

Culture and Arts Organizations Committee

Helen Aberger reported the committee met on April 27. The committee discussed the following items.

1. The committee suggested two listening sessions scheduled for the Cultural Arts Commission meetings in September and October.
2. New groups will be invited to make presentations as well as the previous groups.
3. The groups will inform the commissioners on the effect of COVID-19 on their groups.
4. The promotion for the sessions would include a post on the City's website and a featured article in the "Rockville Reports".
5. The Cultural Arts Commissioners would make recommendations to the Mayor and Council for consideration.

Human Rights Commission

Gabrielle Zwi reported that the Human Rights Commissioners are seeking a volunteer to record a brief tutorial for a Pride-themed art project for their annual Pride celebration. The Cultural Arts Commissioners suggested other ideas for their celebration.

Re: Old Business

None.

Re: New Business

Karen Askin asked Frances Bevington if her husband would be willing to work with VisArts staff to create a Pride light show for Rockville Town Square.

Helen Aberger reported that the resident companies of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre have a one-year Memorandum of Understanding with the City that fosters rental abatement and storage facilities. The Cultural Arts Commissioners voted and passed on the motion to send a thank you letter to the Mayor and Council for their efforts with these resident companies. Karen Askin and Helen Aberger will draft a letter on behalf of Cultural Arts Commission.

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.