

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

June 9, 2021

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

Members Absent: Therese Capal
Connor Lee

Councilmember Present: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andrew Lett., Betty Wisda

Other: Gabrielle Zwi

Karen Askin, Chairperson, called the virtual online meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes for the May 12, 2021 meeting.

Re: Chairperson's Report

Karen Askin reported on the following items.

1. Drew Powell, President of Rockville Sister City Corporation, contacted her regarding rededication and sculpture maintenance at Welsh Park. She forwarded the email to staff for follow-up. Staff reported that the City of Rockville commissioned the sculpture through funds from the Art in Public Places program. The original concept was that the City of Rockville would commission an artist from Pinneberg, Germany, to install a work of art in Rockville. Then, the City of Pinneberg would commission an artist from Rockville, Maryland, to install a work of art in Pinneberg.

The sculpture was dedicated in 1991 and included the installation of the standard 5" by 8" bronze plaque, including the artist's name, the title of the artwork, the installation year, and the Rockville Art in Public Places.

Pinneberg did not sponsor an art competition for a Rockville artist for an art project in Pinneberg. The City does not rededicate a sculpture in the Art in Public Places collection. The "On stie" sculpture is scheduled for a cleaning in the fall.

2. She wrote a letter to Mayor Newton and forwarded the letter to Councilmember Ashton regarding temporary art installations regarding current events and funding for the Fiscal Year 2023.

Re: Councilmember Report

Councilmember Pierzchala reported that he was very happy that the Mayor and Council unanimously approved the \$100,000 art commission to Matthew Geller for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project. He attended the dedication of the Rockville Skate Park.

Re: Staff Report

1. Members of the Rockville Concert Band were filmed performing "The National Anthem," "Taps," and two patriotic songs on the patio of Glenview Mansion. Channel 11 included the Concert Band's music in the City of Rockville's virtual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 31.
2. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Rockville Skate Park was held on June 7. The Rockville Skate Park will be the next Art in Public Architecture project.
3. The Board of Directors of the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation selected Rockville Art League (RAL) for the Community Contribution Award. They were selected for their long-standing support of the City's Arts Division. They assisted with multiple calls for artists, presenting virtual art exhibits, such as "For the Love of Glenview" during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Patrick Sieg, President of RAL, will accept the award at the Mayor and Council's June 21 meeting.
4. The signed contract between the City and Matthew Geller for the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project has been submitted to the City Attorney's Office on June 3. The City Attorney's Office will obtain the signatures of the City Manager and the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations for this art project on June 3.
5. The City issued the two purchase orders to Debora Rodrigues, Past Matters, LLC, for conservation work to "Spirit of Rockville" at Courthouse Square Park and "Untitled" at Rockville Civic Center Park on June 4. Conservation work will begin in late August.

6. Live at RedGate is scheduled for June 23-26. Victorian Lyric Opera Company will be performing on Wednesday, June 23. Free tickets are available online. Masks are recommended for all people not vaccinated.

Re: Task Force/Committee Updates

Art in Public Places

1. 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.
2. Debora Rodrigues, Owner of Past Matters, LLC, has been issued a purchase order for conservation 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.
3. Matthew Geller has been issued a purchase order to fabricate and install the art project at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
4. The Rockville Skate Park will be the next Art in Public Architecture project.
5. The Park Road Underpass was discussed. CSX has stated they will not accept any work that contains attachments. WMATA prefers attachments. The CAC agreed that moving forward with a specific call for the artist requiring the artists to work with the rust in their mural. The first step would be for WMATA to approve painting their section of the underpass. The commission motioned to moving forward with a new call for artist for the underpass on Park Road. The motion passed unanimously.
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7. The AIPP subcommittee will research and present asphalt art criteria at a future meeting.
8. The history of the police station work of art was discussed and not approved due to ownership concerns of adjacent property and historic restrictions of the post office. The AIPP subcommittee will explore new possibilities.

Culture and Arts Organizations Committee

Helen Aberger reported that the committee met on May 25 and discussed the following.

1. The committee suggested two listening sessions be scheduled for the Cultural Arts Commission meetings in September and October.

2. The promotion for the sessions would include a post on the City's website and a featured article in the "Rockville Reports".

Human Rights Commission

Gabrielle Zwi reported on upcoming pride events sponsored by the Human Rights Commission. She also noted that the chair of the Human Rights Commission was stepping down from her role with the Commission.

Re: Old Business

None.

Re: New Business

The CAC discussed the possibility of meeting outdoors using the RedGate canopy. Staff will send a survey to gauge comfort levels with moving to in-person meetings.

Re: Announcements

F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival to be held throughout the fall with several sessions. Victoria Lyric Opera Company will be performing at Red Gate on June 23, 2021.

Re: Next Meeting

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.