

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

October 13, 2021

Members Present: Karen Askin, Francis Bevington,
Liliane Blom, Patricia Dubroof, Howie Jung, Brian Rogers,

Members Absent: Therese Capal, Melissa Law,
Connor Lee, Heather Thompson,

Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala, absent

Staff Present: Laura Creech, Andy Lett, Betty Wisda,

Guests Present:

Karen Askin called the virtual online meeting to order at 9:07 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the September 14, 2021 meeting.

Re: Councilmember Report

- No report

Re: Chairperson's Report

- Helen Aberger and Robert Summers-Berger have resigned from their positions which leave two openings.

Re: Staff Report

- The Mayor and Council presented the Proclamation for Arts and Humanities Month during the October 4 meeting.
- There are currently two openings on the Cultural Arts Commission. Robert Summers-Berger resigned from his position in September, and Helen Aberger resigned from her position in October.
- Rockville Concert Band will perform the "Old and New" concert at 3 pm on Sunday, October 17, at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
- The "Meet the Artists" event for the Fairweather Artists is scheduled for Sunday, October 24, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival is scheduled to be held virtually on Saturday, October 30.
- The Cultural Arts Commission will present its Annual Report to the Mayor and Council on Monday, November 1, 2021.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Mayor and Council approved the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Art Project by Matthew Geller in May 2021. The construction drawings were submitted to City Staff for review in late September. The next step is for Matthew to obtain the signature and stamp from a certified structural engineer in Maryland for permits to be approved. The project is scheduled for installation in winter 2022 based on the availability of fiberglass.
- The committee recommends working with David Hess to find a viable site for his proposed work of art. Site limitations have hindered the progress of the project. The committee feels strongly that the proposed work of art would be a destination piece in the City’s public art collection.
- The committee acknowledges the challenges of placing public art on property owned by others (WMAT, CSX, State Highway, private owners, etc.). Working with these entities often requires artwork to be selected in advance and engineering plans to be submitted for review before approving artwork on their property. The committee recommends prioritizing City-owned property when proposing art installations in the future. Mapping of City-owned properties where the City can install AIPP art will be a goal for the upcoming year.
- The committee agreed to rename the “Gateway Project” to “Significant Works of Art Program,” thus providing more flexibility in finding viable locations around Rockville and not just entry points. The goal is to complete it next year.
- Motion made by Lilian Blom to incorporate renaming the “Gateway Project” to “Significant Works of Art Program into the annual report from CAC to Mayor and Council.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Creatives Summit Planning Task Force

- Held the Rockville Arts Groups Listening Session before tonight’s meeting from 7-9 p.m. with eight groups discussing their organization’s mission, history, challenges during Covid 19 pandemic and what CAC can do to help them succeed.
- The CAC will be holding another Rockville Arts Group Listening Session for 3-4 more groups before the November CAC meeting and more in December if necessary.

Re: Human Rights Commission

- No report

Re: Old Business

- Karen thanked Brian and Francis for sending comments for Mayor and Council's annual report.
- Motion made to have Karen take comments from tonight's CAC meeting, consolidate them, and add them to the Mayor and Council annual report.
- Motion made to add language to the annual report to include feedback from listening sessions regarding a need for a Black Box venue with 100 seats. Also, to suggest installing a central kiosk or visitor center so residents and visitors are aware of activities and shows happening around Rockville.

Re: New Business

- Betty and Andy will set up a time to discuss the Significant Work of Art and potential locations.
- Plan to invite VLOC, Rockville Chorus, Rockville Band and maybe one more group to present at the next Rockville Arts Group Listening session in November.

Re: Announcements

None

Re: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.