



**City Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:30 pm
City Hall Staff Lounge, 2nd Floor and Zoom.us
111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

ATTENDEES: Lindsay Vigue, Kim Villanti, Andrea Adams, Samantha Buonafede, Juliet Norton, Mark Walerysiak
ABSENT: Bill Stortz
COUNCIL LIAISON: Greg Hahn
GUESTS: Erica Benoit, Parks Dept.

I. Call to Order – Lindsay Vigue called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Approval of Minutes

Samantha Buonafede made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2021, seconded by Andrea Adams. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

IV. Memorial Boulevard Wood Carving Update and Vote

Jared was contacted to see if he could do the tree in collaboration with the 100th anniversary of MBS. The cost will be another \$500 so the cost will increase from \$3500 to \$4000. Andy wondered would there be enough time for the wood to cure? There was a suggestion that a Facebook livestream could be done as well.

Andrea Adams made a motion to have the tree carving done for the 100th anniversary of MBS with the additional funds of \$500. Samantha Buonafede seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

V. Mural Plaque Wordage

Lindsay mentioned a few additions she would like to see on the plaque. Discussion. Lindsay will send any edits to Kim. Does the sign info need to be sent to the new owner? Greg Hahn does not think this is necessary, but he will check.

Samantha Buonafede made a motion to approve the mural plaque wording with edits as discussed. Kim Villanti seconded the motion, all present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Lindsay will forward edits to Kim. Kim will get the dimensions from Lindsey Rivers and do the pdf for all to review and approve.

VI. Brainstorm Ideas of CACC Projects

At the last meeting there was discussion about helping artists in some way. One idea is to put out a few of the commission's ideas to the public. We would need to decide on the projects and what the budget is as well as location. At the previous meeting there was a suggestion to have a concert at Rockwell Amphitheatre. A call for artists to be part of a "performance in the park" event could be put out or to be part of an "art in the park event." It is outside so any crowd restrictions are reduced.

Andy inquired could this be in Muzzy Field so that they could control how many people come in. Distancing could also be controlled. Sam suggested using spacing where the "seating" is squared off – there are outdoor concerts being done this way.

VII. MBS Theater Task Force Update – Greg Hahn, Committee Liaison

The Theatre Task Force is working with Josh on the supervisor for Arts and Culture and he is working with Dr. Dieter on the job description and how that position will be shared. They anticipate this person being on board by July 1. Then the Task Force will be dissolved and the members of the task force will be taken on as board members for the non-profit. The non-profit will support the Arts & Culture Commission on fund-raising and grant-writing. The funds raised will be held over from year to year.

The glass ball project from the New England Carousel Museum will be kicked off soon. Greg will go to the glassblowers soon with Morgan and will take photos and an article will be in the paper.

Greg Hahn excused himself from the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

VI. Brainstorm Ideas, continued

Lindsay reported that the Mayor asked if they want to be involved with a Thank-You to essential workers marking one year of COVID. She mentioned a possible location on Riverside. The Mayor mentioned a couple of other locations. There will be a number of photos on a website and some will be selected to be displayed publicly. Our budget will not be used. Lindsay has been asked to do the photography.

Julie supplied several photos for inspiration for murals. There were several of phoenixes just to show several views. It can be included in a larger mural or part of an interactive mural. The dragonfly sculpture is an example of a small sculpture which can be bought for about \$3500.

The committee could put out the parameters which they would like for a small sculpture and word can be put out. Preference is an original work. Lindsay had an idea for a small mural location on Riverside near downtown. Painting of the local bridges was discussed as the walls are blank and dull.

Kim mentioned the "locks of love" bridges such as the one in Paris. It could be done on a chain link fence somewhere in town. Possible locations were discussed for this idea. Julie mentioned perhaps a welder could make a giant metal heart for this purpose. Individuals could also pose in front of the heart.

Lindsay summarized the ideas to put out to the artist public for ideas and designs:

- Phoenix Mural – could be interactive – 2 possible locations
- Water Sculpture
- Bridge Painting
- Topiary – shape to be determined
- Locks of Love on a fence
- Seeds to grow up a blank wall such as a railroad bridge. Paint it with seeds. (Perhaps on the Centre Sq. retaining wall?) This idea needs approval and may need a permit.

Kim Villanti excused herself at 7:48 p.m.

Lindsay said that they need specific parameters for each project and costs need to be considered. She would like to choose 3 of these projects.

Additionally the committee spoke about a possible concert which could take place in summer or fall. Gatherings are still up in the air for this year.

Lindsay asked that these ideas get firmed up at the March meeting, and then get submissions for a month, review them in April.

Erica will research fencing costs, locations, permissions.

Sam will research bridge info – permissions, what is involved, etc.

At the next meeting the third idea will be decided.

VIII. Old Business

Julie inquired about the painting of the turtles on Federal Hill. Erica said they will have to wait for warmer weather.

IX. New Business – There was no new business.

X. Adjournment

Andrea Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m., seconded by Samantha Buonafede. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary