

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, September 28, 2021
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT (9/10): **Bill Dunn** (EDC Rep.)
Devin Wilkie (Heritage Commission Rep.)
Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)
Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3)
Becky Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1)
Gavin Wynkoop-Fischer (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)
Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep.-AVA Gallery)
Joe Clifford (Vice Chair; Arts Org. Rep.-LOH) *Remote
Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (1/10) **Sherry Fiore** (Alt.)

STAFF PRESENT: (2/2) Kristine Flythe (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec),
Paul Coats (Director, Leb. Rec.)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 24, 2021

*Counselor Zook MOVED to Approve the August 24, 2021 minutes, with amendments.
Seconded by Mr. Dunn.*

Amendments: Page 2, Line 33; Remove ‘Counselor’ and Add ‘Mr.’

**The Motion was approved as amended, (5/0/4).
Abstention by Mr. Clifford, Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Wilkie, and Mr. Fischer.*

3. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. Public Art Submission: John Tudisca

Mr. Tudisca discussed his submission and application that is in the packet for this meeting. He has done abstract art in the Upper Valley area for over a year. He would like to install his seven abstract pieces of art, measuring 2 feet by 3 feet, pertaining to Covid and personal regeneration, titled “Return to Nature.” Each piece has a name (atlas, soul, heart, mind, body, spirit, ocean). The art is reflective and interacts with sunlight to create a different picture based on the time of day. Currently his artwork is by the Powerhouse Mall. He would install it every day at sunrise and would take it down at sunset. He proposes taking down the artwork when weather is detrimental to the art. It would be installed starting at the MRG/High St. entrance and travel east towards the NRT and finish in Enfield. The Commission makes a recommendation to the City Manager and the City Manager signs off on the approval. The installation would have a 9-month duration and the artist would be ready with new artwork in June for a 2nd install and he would resubmit a new proposal at that time.

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to recommend this installation for approval to the City Manager.
Seconded by Gavin Wynkoop-Fischer.*

***The Motion was approved. (9/0).**

B. Fountain and Rotary Discussions: (P.Coats & K.Flythe)

Shared update on details that could be expected and possible ideas for a fountain and sculpture installation. However any and all ideas are encouraged.

Mrs. Flythe and Mr. Coats met with a designer for the City and the City Engineer to discuss what will be in the middle of the rotary at High Street/Mascoma Street/Mechanic Street. It might be a fountain off to the side, close to the sandwich shop or a sculpture in the middle, but that area is small with a 10-foot diameter. There has been talk of a water wheel, something tied into the rail trail or other suggestions from High Street. The initial installation cost will be folded into the project and things in the future will require additional funding sources.

Chair Giordani expanded on the discussion of covers for the fountains because it was not included on the agenda. The fountain cover painting is underway and will be ready for installation by the third week in October. DPW is going to construct a cover over the cannon balls in front of the soldier's memorial by the Veterans Building. Students at AVA have a concept of Four Seasons for that cover because it will have four sides. They are looking for donations of paint, but there is a need for some additional funds to complete the projects.

Chair Giordani MOVED that the Arts and Culture Commission fund this project at the requested amount of \$200.

Seconded by Becky Foster.

***The Motion was approved (9/0).**

C. Banners (B.Van Vliet)

Mr. Van Vliet shared the update that there are about 12 banner opportunities in Lebanon, and 4 in West Lebanon. The utility poles in West Lebanon do not lend themselves to adding more to the congestion on those poles and would require permission. After a walk around they determined there is some hardware in place and in other locations they will need to add hardware to add banners. There are 16 banners just on the mall.

They hope to switch out the banners in November and take them down around May, about a 6 month turn around, when the bucket truck is available from rec staff. Six-month banners need to feel fresh throughout the 6 months, so it's a challenge to have a banner that crosses all of those seasonal changes. They are also pondering what they would like the banners to look like. In the future it would be nice to have them created by people from Lebanon or have banners with a Lebanon influence. In the short term, they could find banners from a catalog, and perhaps have the name Lebanon or a logo included. They hope to have 12-15 banners in the downtown area, excluding the mall. The mall would add another 16 banners because they are on both sides of the poles. They would start at the fire station with a few on each side of Colburn Park that would be visible from each direction. There are places for 4 banners in West Lebanon. It is important to allocate funds this month in order to have the banners in time to install in November. They are proposing using the 3 foot by 18 inch banners. The banners range from \$50 to \$75. The cost would be about \$1500 to \$2000 for Colburn Park and West Lebanon, which is within the current budget.

Mr. Van Vliet MOVED that the Arts and Culture Commission allocate up to \$2000 toward the purchase and installation of banners for downtown and West Lebanon.

Seconded by Counselor Zook.

It is getting toward the end of the year's budget. It is thought that the funds should be used before the end of the year and there are no other pending projects. The project includes both Lebanon and West Lebanon.

The members discussed options for the materials and design of the banners. Overall, the consensus is to keep business and art local versus buying a typical generic crafted banner when that is possible. Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Wilkie offered to join a working group to find the best banner options to hit the November timeline. The members would like the banners to continue to be useful in the future.

****The Motion was approved. (8/0).***

D. Sidewalk Poetry (B.Foster)

Ms. Foster and Mr. Dunn met with the Director of DPW. Overall DPW is on board and excited for this project. The Director is willing to fold the Arts Commission into the final sidewalk maintenance program. He identified locations for 2022: a spot over on Kimball Street, Spencer Street area by the CCBA, and repair work by Salt Hill and South Main Street in West Lebanon. They could do 4 or 5 panels a year. Technically they will need to work with the City during the curing process so the poetry can be inserted at the precise time. There may be other opportunities that are unexpected, and DPW could add an asphalt place holder in that situation and poetry could be inserted in the near future. DPW was very receptive to being flexible with temporary asphalt sections to allow time to add poetry.

The next step is working with the library to identify the poetry that will go into the first installation. After that it will be getting prepared to work with the form company to get the poem in stamp form to be put into the concrete. They have a company to work with for the first few, but that will involve paying for shipping. After that, they hope the work will be done locally. They are preparing for Spring 2021.

E. Graffiti Park - Permanent installed signage and reset (K.Flythe)

The canvas sign of the rules is not a permanent install. The members discussed if they want to make a permanent sign for the rules and if they want to change the paint on the panels to white again to reset the panels. There is graffiti on all sides. They discussed if the graffiti would remain permanently or if it should cycle. The panels have changed and evolved over time. One time a graffiti birthday party was held. The artists are respecting the artwork of other people. The only 3 panels that have not been changed in the last 3 weeks are the Black Lives Matter panels. Other than that, the panels have been evolving. The rules could be on a plaque or something other than one of the panels, so they can be seen but are not going to be written over. It may be preferable to have them separate from the graffiti. Overall members do not mind the look of it now but maybe in the future a sign could be located closer to the park or kept on the fence to make the rules clear and unobstructed. The members discussed resetting the panels and determined it was not needed at this time. The rules do state that they will be reset. A time progression via Instagram would be great to show changes every month.

F. Rainworks (K.Flythe)

The rain rained on the Rainworks. The original was shifted closer to the bike rack in West Lebanon and the last sticker was added. There are 5 more stickers to install before the end of the year. The members were asked for suggestions of where they could be installed. It was suggested that a hopscotch would be a nice idea and they will look for a location. Once the library is open it may be a good location. This is an ongoing project. If anyone has ideas, please send them to Kristine Flythe via e-mail.

G. Soofa Signs (J.Giordani & P.Coats)

Chair Giordani said the signs have been installed. The City has been putting information up on the screens. Mr. Coats shared wraps are in progress but nothing final yet for an install date. The wraps are an ongoing development, and they are not right yet.

H. Light up Leb! (G.Wynkoop-Fischer)

Mr. Wynkoop-Fischer will take lead to connect with AVA and Recreation to make Light Up Leb! Happen. The event was held last year where people donated jack-o lanterns to be lit up around the park. There was some collaboration with Ava last year. Last year there were around 100 pumpkins. Now is a great time to develop a flyer and get them out to people so some pumpkins can get adopted and be available for the park. It would be nice to have one on every post. Lebanon High School is going to the pumpkin patch and there will be medium size pumpkins donated by Riverview Farms. Last year there were tea lights in the pumpkins, but they could paint on some of the pumpkins. After the event, they had to be picked up by the end of the night or they were donated to a pig farm. No political statements are allowed. The hope is to inspire community carving parties for families. Last year's poster will be revised for this year's event. Maybe the Lebanon ArtWays can do a blast to get this moving. Last year AVA Board members awarded two prizes, one for the most popular vote and one for anyone who contributed. The prizes were gift certificates to Salt Hill. They will look around for prizes for this year, but they are not essential.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Little Free Craft Library (K.Zook)

A small craft library will be installed by the downtown library. Counselor Zook is confirming that it is possible to use the Lebanon ArtWays logo for a craft library. There are no concerns from the Commission as it supports arts.

B. Kiosk Lebanon Mall (J.Giordani)

Chair Giordani shared that Bekah Hurford reached out about Soofa Signs. There is interest from AVA to install art in more places. It could be an opportunity to rehabilitate this kiosk instead of it being a bulletin board as there is a public board on Colburn Park.

Mr. Wilkie reminded the members that he recalls one of the bike stores might support some bike related art in the new rotary, as it does connect the bike trail. As far as the kiosk goes, there is still a need for public posting by the kiosks.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

None

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Dunn MOVED to Adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Wilkie.

****The Motion was approved (9/0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary