

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, October 26, 2021
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT (7/10): **Bill Dunn** (EDC Rep.)
 Devin Wilkie (Heritage Commission Rep.)
 Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)
 Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3)
 Gavin Wynkoop-Fischer (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)
 Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep.-AVA Gallery)-Remote
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (3/10) **Sherry Fiore** (Alt.),
 Joe Clifford (Vice Chair; Arts Org. Rep.-LOH)
 Becky Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1)

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:** September 28, 2021

*Counselor Zook MOVED to Approve the September 28, 2021 minutes, with amendments.
Seconded by Mr. Dunn.*

Amendments: Correct the spelling of Wilkie and Fischer. Correct the date on the headers.

**The Motion was approved as amended, (7/0).*

3. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. Banners (B.Van Vliet)

A banner working group met and were joined by Devin, Nick and Jessica. They determined both locations, materials and a concept and are ready to move forward. The banners will be installed as a set around Colburn Park and set by the new light poles on the Mall and a few around West Lebanon. They will be plain banners with a color pattern. The colors will be connected to the Lebanon Artways logo. Vinyl is the chosen material, it can be obtained locally, and it will withstand the weather. They are working to finalize the vendor, the actual colors, and the actual size. They believe the banners can be ready to go up when Rec puts up the lights. Typically, the light installation begins around mid-November, so if the banners are available by the time of the lighting ceremony, early in the week prior to December 4th, the banners will be put up. The turn-around time for the banners is around 8-10 days.

B. Sidewalk Poetry Project (B. Dunn)

Discussion of which poem to select. Please review what the Lebanon Library staff were able to create.

Rebecca did most of the work on this project, but she is not here this evening. There was a link in the packet materials for some proposed poetry, but there are many other options as well. They are using a vendor that is familiar to the City and they want to use the money in the current budget for 1-2 poem

templates. Picking a poem is a combination of the content, the interpretation, and the number of lines in the poetry. One poem with about 4 lines, reflected the purpose of the library, and that may be an appropriate one to use in front of the library. Mr. Dunn believes the library staff will point the public to other places where the poetry can be seen by the public. Some of the poems are also well suited for other areas. There are a few poems and places around Lebanon where a poem would be appropriate because the poem's concept reflects the area; the reference to plant life could be near a garden. The poems that speak about natural elements may be easy for most people to relate to and they may grab the largest audiences in the beginning. The members will E-mail their top 2 poems to Becky. The final budget amount that can be allocated this year will be confirmed.

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

They are very excited that soon this work will be completed. There has been some turn over at Soofa, so they are on hold for the time being. There are no other updates.

D. Light up Leb! (P. Coats)

The flyer is circulating asking community members to carve pumpkins and put them on the posts around Colburn Park. There will be three prizes: funniest, scariest and most creative. Paul is working on getting the prize donations. The City's website has the information about the celebration. It may not be as big of a turn out this year as people have more alternatives this year. Volunteers are needed to help setup, during the celebration, and to help take down.

E. Public Art Installations (K.Flythe)

There has been positive feedback about the new installation along the rail trail. It was suggested that it would be an added bonus to catalogue the public art installations, either on the website or social media. The catalogue could show pictures and dates and make the art available for the public to continue to see. The catalogue would also document how the arts are being supported and promoted around the community.

There is no update on the installations in the tunnel. The artists are finalizing the pieces and they have planned how the art will be hung, but an installation date is not set. They are hoping for mid-November.

F. Fountain Covers Update (J. Giordani)

Carl at Ava said the covers are ready and Paul is in touch with DPW to get them put up. They intend to do that Thursday, 10/28. Everyone is ready to see the new art and have new images in Lebanon. New people have been working on the fountain covers this years, young people, kids' groups, Dartmouth students, and other cohorts. It has involved many people besides AVA. Jessica is hoping to put together a list of all the people who painted the covers so they can be given credit for their work.

Devin mentioned that David Brooks pointed out the not attractive utilities shed near the tunnel. He suggested it might be an opportunity for an intentional public graffiti space or some other mural and art installation. Members thought this was a good idea. The last two public art applications came directly from the artists, and for the shed perhaps a calling or a promotion for the use of that space could be made. Maybe the shed could be linked with the 5 large concrete planters near it, with some theme or relationship. The committee discussed the need to offer payment for the materials or perhaps a stipend. But if it is the hope that the art will just be a gift to the City of Lebanon, that should be indicated at the start. A sponsor partnership could be initiated, and this might be a good approach to demonstrating a model for starting this type of project. The budget will be looked at to see if there are still funds available, otherwise it may be in the 2022 budget year. They will start by looking for artists who want to donate their work, time or money for public art; and then move to budgeting for it if there is no success.

The holiday celebration will likely be a traveling Santa instead of a gathering inside a building. It would be nice if the public art and the plan for the shed and the planters could all come together around the holiday celebration to raise awareness of the public art opportunities in Lebanon. It could be an opportunity for public input about places for art as well as choosing the art.

Lucky's has murals in their restrooms, and that is an inspiration that murals and more art could be put in the rail trail restrooms and other restroom walls. The mural in the Lebanon Library is finished now.

The end of the year is coming, and many things have been accomplished. It would be a good idea to review what the Commission has done and accomplished, what they have started, and what other things might be done in the future. It may be a helpful way to work on the upcoming budget. It would be nice to have that summary available for the public to see all that has been accomplished. This Commission is making a difference in the community. Being a commission that establishes new traditions within the City is a great goal. In that same vein, it is a good idea to start compiling the list of what they want to do in the future and how will it impact the public. The West Lebanon Greenway space is a great opportunity for art when the yard is completely demolished.

Kristine is excited about working on expanding the arts and related events and to continue to focus on the art offerings sponsored by the department. It was added to the Rec Office, but there is more to it than just adding it to the name. Paul spoke highly of Kristine's efforts and continued plans. She asked everyone to start thinking about the 2022 goals/objectives and how the Recreation Department can fulfill more of a role. She would like art to become a passion that impacts the community. In the future, they will reach out to Melanie McDonough, who is now responsible for innovation, and she may be able to help the Commission with new ideas regarding the arts that can be expanded upon.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Ben Van Vliet MOVED to Adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM.

Seconded by Mr. Wilke.

****The Motion was approved (7/0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary