

FINAL

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

MEMBERS PRESENT (7/10): **Devin Wilkie** (Heritage Commission Rep.)
 Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)
 Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3)
 Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep.-AVA Gallery)
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)
 Becky Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1)
 Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (3/10) **Gavin Wynkoop-Fischer** (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)
 Sherry Fiore (Alt.)-
 Joe Clifford (Vice Chair; Arts Org. Rep.-LOH)

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 6:34 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** November 23, 2021

*Mr. Wilkie MOVED to approve the November 23, 2021, minutes.
Seconded by Karen Zook.*

**The Motion was approved (6/0/1).
Mr. Dunn abstained.*

The Order of the meeting was changed to introduce the new AVA Director.

3. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

A. Visit from the new AVA Gallery Executive Director Shari Boraz

The new Director has been at AVA for about a month. She has been a member of AVA for many years and has lived in the community for the last 23 years. Her degree is in non-profit management. She spoke to the members about her excitement for the future of the Gallery and the relationship the Gallery will have with the Commission. They will be looking for opportunities to collaborate on future endeavors.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Meeting Time for 2022 (J. Giordani)
This item was tabled until the January meeting hoping for input from all the members.

B. Banner Installation Update (K.Flythe)

The banners were installed in West Lebanon and a short time after the installation they discovered that the hardware is failing and needs to be replaced. There is a problem with the size of some of the new banners

because they do not fit the hardware. They are reviewing if the size of the banners is large enough for West Lebanon, but the size seems appropriate for Lebanon around the park. The investment for the hardware for each set is around \$50 and 26 sets of hardware may be needed. The cost of the hardware has fallen to the Commission instead of other City Departments. They discussed ideas to add banners to the bridge from West Lebanon to WRJ. Ben shared the idea of children's art being incorporated into the banner project but on a larger scale of 4 ft x 2 ft. He saw similar banners on a recent trip and thought the presentation was a pleasant experience while driving through that rural road. He intends to reach out to that community to discover any lessons learned that may be applicable here. Kristine said she would reach out to Liberty Utilities to see if there are options for future partnerships with the utility poles.

Bill mentioned that the 1st installed public art by Roger may have been damaged. Nick is checking to see if Roger has taken the piece to be repaired.

C. Sidewalk Poetry (B. Foster)

Ms. Foster discussed the importance of using poems that are in the public domain, which is poems that were written by 1925. They have been hunting for poems that were published before that date, so they do not need permission to use the poem. She followed up with some of the authors for some of the poems that were chosen that were not in public domain. They chose four poems published by authors who died before 1925 and hope they meet the members' approval. They have the artwork, the quote for the price on the order and will be completing the purchase this week. The cost is reasonable, around \$1200, so it will be a good purchase. They hope to have all the poems available by April 1, 2022. The poem about the library is a challenge because the author is still alive, and it was not ordered at this time. Devin offered to help with rights for poetry and if any additional help is needed. They discussed the possibility of a public contest and submissions for the next round for 2023. This could be done when the current poems are revealed.

D. Chair Report (J. Giordani)

The Chair has a written version of the yearly report, and they are looking for the best way to format the report to put it on the internet. Next month will be a new year and the January meeting will include 2022 elections of the Chair and the Vice Chair. They will be discussing goals and projects for the upcoming year. Hopefully everyone will have ideas that they would like to implement in 2022. There was a modest budget increase for next year, about \$8000 for the year instead of the \$5000 that was available in 2021. The extra money was provided by the Council to offer seed money for art installations and commissions. They will continue to seek financial supporters for future commissions as they have done in the past. The tunnel opening and all the activities this winter were a great success and Lebanon was a buzz of activity. The little free craft library is installed next to the book return at the Lebanon Library and will soon be open for the exchange and sharing of craft materials.

E. Budget Review (J. Giordani)

None

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Devin Wilkie MOVED to Adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Seconded by Nick Gaffney.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary