

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, January 25, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

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

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 6:32 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** December 28, 2021

*Devin Wilke MOVED to approve the December 28, 2021, minutes.
Seconded by Karen Zook.*

Nick Gaffney and Ben Van Vliet, members attending remote, were given permission to vote.

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

3. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2022 (J.Giordani)

Devin Wilkie nominated Jessica Giordani for Chair.
She accepted the nomination.
She was appointed (9-0).

Nick Gaffney offered to be Vice Chair.
He was appointed (9-0).

B. Discussion of meeting time (K.Flythe)

The members discussed the option of moving the meeting earlier in the evening, and if the same day of the month should be maintained. They discussed that the time of 5:30 was inconvenient for several members and thought it acceptable to have the meeting at 6:00 instead of 6:30. There is agreement that the fourth Tuesday of the month is preferable. The meeting will be the fourth Tuesday at 6:00 PM going forward.

C. Sidewalk Poetry Project (B.Foster)

The forms were ordered, and they should be in hand by April 1, 2022. A map from DPW, showing green paths, illustrated where new sidewalks will be installed this upcoming year. They will determine where the new poems will be put in place.

The Poetry Contest committee will be working on getting out the rules and timing for early spring. They have examples of how this has been done in the past, and several members are joining the group to setup how things will be done in 2022. It takes several months to get the concrete poem forms and they will need time to get the contest up and running. They will have the contest one year and the installation will take place the following year. After the first installation they will determine if they want to continue to work with the same company that is creating the first forms. Mr. Gavin Wynkoop-Fischer expressed interest in being involved with the project and spoke of people who could volunteer to be part of the judging team or could make contributions to the project. There can be up to four members of the Commission who are part of the working group.

They will be reaching out to the City Council for reappointment to the Commission for several members this upcoming year.

D. Arts & Culture 2022 Goals

Members brainstormed a potential list of goals and ideas are for 2022. Some of these included:

1. West Lebanon revitalization program
2. Incorporate art in everything that is happening and all RFPs
3. Incorporate art in the redevelopment of the back parking lot
4. Ice sculptures
5. Winter carnival or festival
6. Developing public/private relationships to bring arts to the community
7. Include art in construction improvements and redevelopments
8. Continue expanding public art-installations and poetry and other ways
9. Include diversity, equity and inclusion in the Commission's work
10. Partner with other programming, such as the Nexus Festival, to include all arts in the visitor experience and increase visibility of the arts in Lebanon
11. Leverage all opportunities to partner and include arts with other organizations to raise visibility
12. Mural project in West Lebanon on Pet Smart building with potential \$15,000 outside funding
13. Mobile art cart, possibly kept adjacent to the craft library or near AVA, and bring the cart to community events to create art
14. Promote busking and emphasize arts, such as musicians on busses, as well as promoting public transportation
15. Get a recurring open mike for writers somewhere in the area
16. Use the space behind and within the Kilton Library in creative ways
17. Create a mural on the utility shed along the bike path to minimize graffiti
18. Increase the number of murals in the community
19. Use the platform that was recently discovered for performance arts
20. Create a natural outdoor theatre
21. Leverage partnerships, such as Kilton that has space but does not have experience in the arts
22. Promote the Commission as the place to start when art is concerned in the City, keep the Commission involved without becoming a bottle neck. How are things vetted, approved without involving the Commission, but still ensure the good quality and how it fits with the policy
23. Add art to the interior walls of City Hall
24. Increase awareness of the Commission and art related application forms on the City Website
25. Recognize the many levels that art could be incorporated in the community, such as City Hall installations to improving the utility shed
26. Lebanon Artways awards

27. Create interest with artists and calls to artists to be involved with exhibiting arts in Lebanon
28. Involve the City processes to amplify the arts in Lebanon and help to move things forward-who is responsible to get an arts story out regularly and consistently such as on the City website to leverage the arts
29. Expand the connection and awareness of the Artways
30. Encourage music in the community
31. Expand the banner work
32. Expand art in the tunnel and get plaques up for the artwork that is in the tunnel
33. Inventory the surfaces where art can be installed
34. Inventory the places where busking can take place and encourage artists to participate
35. Encourage music in public settings by amateur artists as well as experienced artists
36. Planned spontaneity for performance arts
37. Promote the Commission as a place to find creative solutions-such as the bike racks and walls

Chair Giordani reviewed all the projects that the Commission has accomplished throughout 2021. Everyone was surprised by all the accomplishments. Mr. Coates emphasized the need to determine what the Commission can accomplish and how they can be involved in the community when the Commission cannot support all the potential projects. There are many arts related ventures that are going on in Lebanon and the City cannot accomplish all of them, but they can be supportive of all the ideas going forward.

38. Fountains, trees, arts and organizing tours to bring people to all the art points of interest within the community
39. City seal design guide
40. Mall kiosks
41. Rainways
42. Bringing different world views to the community, such as the international artists supporting equity and inclusion; the April 6 event of the Argentinian group that will be touring and may have an event in Spring or Summer in Lebanon

This is an extensive list. The Chair will organize the list to bring back to the Commission and review it with Staff, to determine how to move forward.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

5. OPEN to the Public

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Karen Zook MOVED to Adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Seconded by Devin Wilkie.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary