

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES July 26, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:00PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (7/9) **Devin Wilkie** (Heritage Commission Rep.)
 Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3)
 Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep.-AVA Gallery)
 Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)
 Lucas Mendelsohn for Joe Clifford (Vice Chair; Arts Org. Rep.-LOH)
 Becky Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1)
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC) Remote, arrived late

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/9) **Gavin Wynkoop-Fischer** (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)
 Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)

STAFF PRESENT: (1/2) **Kristine Flythe** (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)
 Paul Coats (Director, Leb. Rec.)-not present

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** June 28, 2022

*Devin Wilke MOVED to approve the June 28, 2022, minutes with amendments.
Seconded by Nick Gaffney.*

Amendment: Page 2, Line 18; spelling correction.

**The Motion was unanimously approved (5/0/1).*

3. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Revised LOH Public Art Display.

Lucas Mendelsohn presented the revised public art display application from the Lebanon Opera House. The Opera House would like to make an addition to the previous permit that was submitted. During the time period, they would like to provide an opportunity for the public to create chalk artwork. It would be monitored throughout the day.

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to accept the revised public art display permit.
Seconded by Beck Foster.*

**The Motion was unanimously approved.*

B. West Lebanon Civic Group (B.Foster)

In the last City Council meeting the Westboro lot in West Lebanon was discussed. There is an issue getting leases to make sure the City is not liable for any hazards that are under the buildings that were removed or under the ground. This is where the trail would be extended. They hope to get the Governor

involved to help and are looking for dates to bring him here. They intend to call it the Bridge Street Park. They want to encourage volunteers to help with plantings in the area. There will be a nice sign. They are planning a two-hour work session on September 10th. They want to show community involvement. Ms. Foster is asking for involvement from the Arts Commission, such as a chalk art event. They hope to have some music, but there is no electricity at that location.

The art cart and the chalk art event were discussed. At the next meeting the members will determine how they will be involved. They hope to have a two-hour work session followed by the two-hour event for the public.

C. Poetry Contest (K.Flythe)

There were 58 submissions from everywhere. By next week she will assemble all the poems for members to review and to be ready to be judged. They are still discussing when the winners will be announced. One thought is to announce during the Nexus Festival, or to have them determined in time for the Leb Fest in September.

D. Tunnel Strategic Plan (J.Giordani)

A small subset of members generated ideas about a strategic plan for the tunnel. Ms. Giordani provided a list of some of the topics. Using a paper list for members to make notes and return to her, she will assemble all the information and bring it back to the members for the next meeting.

Phases and timeline thoughts were discussed by the members. Is there a target year for the tunnel to be filled by artwork? Is it dependent on how it will be filled? What are the time intervals for doing this, two pieces a year or what is appropriate? Mr. Wilkie noticed that the two existing pieces that are installed are about 18 feet, and the number of lineal feet available for installations will impact how many pieces and what sizes will be required to fill the tunnel. This will impact the timeline. Will the space be offered up to various organizations in the Upper Valley, or will there be ways to commission works? Painting on the walls may be easier to fill the walls than installations. The tunnel is approximately 350 feet long and the walls are 18 feet high. There could be permanent works and temporary works. For example, the poems that are not put into the sidewalk could be a stenciled display. The entire space could be inventoried, and determinations made about how the space could be divided for what purposes. There is some additional construction in 2023 that will impact the tunnel and the area by the pocket park. When space is offered to other organizations, the public arts display application can be shared with those organizations, to help them make determinations about what they might want to install. And the locations of where each organization's art is placed could rotate giving others opportunities for different locations of their art. It is thought that a deadline will be essential to keep the work moving forward and if not completed in a timely way, another organization will be offered the space. It is not thought that the Commission will be funding the art in the tunnel, it is a public space to enable the community to make art available in the community. They will continue to look into the possibility of grant applications in partnership with the City. It is thought April to December is the best time to do the installations. The City will want to be involved and approve of any installation requirements that would impact the structure of the tunnel. It is thought that the prospective art be submitted to the Commission to approve the art. There will be some expectations and requirements.

Jennifer Chambers from the New England School of Art said they are willing to help support finding funding for art in the tunnel. The members gratefully accepted the idea of partnering.

Lighting in the tunnel was discussed as part of the wish list of the subset committee. It was also discussed that a space for projection or performance art may be made available and then that parcel of the tunnel could be withheld from the art displays.

Members continued to discuss the list of concepts and ideas and considerations that were on the list generated by the subset members. The tunnel will not be a home for graffiti art, and they would like the art in the tunnel to be family friendly. There is a graffiti park in West Lebanon.

It is thought that small signs identifying the art will be appropriate and the year it was installed. There may be a way to keep track of what work has been removed so it can continue to be recognized.

An important consideration for the planning is communication, to ensure that everyone is receiving the same information in a timely manner. Keeping everyone under a single umbrella could help unify the process and keep the art community oriented. The Public Art Guidelines that were approved last year will be a good guide for providing information and direction without limiting creativity.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public spoke.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary