

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, OCTOBER 27, 2020
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3), Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.; UVMC), Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.), Joe Clifford (Vice Chair), Devin Wilkie (Citizen Rep., Ward 2), Rebecca Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1), Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep; AVA Gallery), Sherry Fiore (Alt.), and Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Welsch (Heritage Commission)

STAFF PRESENT: David Brooks, Planning & Zoning Director

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

A. Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A "Right-to-Know" requirements.

Mr. Brooks shared the State directive and participation details for the online meeting in Microsoft Teams. All speakers identified themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 22, 2020

Page 2, line 35: spelling of "proposed"

Page 4, line 25: Gavin Winkoop Fisher is a community member, not an AVA Board member.

***A MOTION by Mr. Dunn to approve the September 22, 2020 Minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Clifford.***

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included: Chair Giordani, Mr. Van Vliet, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Wilkie, Ms. Foster.

Members abstaining: Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Zook, Ms. Fiore

****The Motion was approved (6-0)***

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Discussion Re: Wordmark Artist

Mr. Clifford provided an update on the status of retaining an artist for the wordmark project. Ten artists responded to the Commission's Request for Proposals (RFP) and 4 were interviewed. The subcommittee has selected Sarah Ettinger, a former Lebanon resident, whose designs include the logo for Lucky's Coffee Garage.

Ms. Ettinger has already provided some preliminary designs with revisions or alternate designs anticipated by late November. Final designs are expected by mid to late December.

Mr. Dunn noted that this has been a highly collaborative effort and there is a lot of enthusiasm for the project. Chair Giordani was pleased with the number and creativity of the responses.

B. Discussion Re: Review of NRT-Greenway Tunnel Trail link

Mr. Brooks provided an overview of the capital projects involving Spencer Street, Taylor Street, and the Northern Rail Trail and the planned connection between the Rail Trail and the tunnel.

Mr. Van Vliet asked whether these projects would be an opportunity to stamp poetry into the new sidewalk paving. Mr. Dunn noted the Commission had discussed this idea previously and sees these projects as a good opportunity, especially since they are downtown. Ms. Foster liked the idea of getting the community involved, including judging proposals.

Chair Giordani recommended that the Civic Art subcommittee would be appropriate to continue advancing this idea. Mr. Van Vliet recommended connecting with writers or literary groups to participate in the project.

Mr. Gaffney asked for an update on the proposal to install EV charging stations along Taylor Street. Ms. Zook noted that issues arose with land ownership in the planned location and it does not appear this area will be targeted for an installation at the moment.

Chair Giordani asked members to think ahead to Spring and how the arts or grand opening events might be planned and executed in light of potentially continuing restrictions.

Mr. Gaffney asked when artists would be able to get into the tunnel to begin work. Mr. Brooks noted that the contractor's schedule will determine when access can be granted, but that it may not be too far in advance of the tunnel opening. Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Gaffney to investigate painting on concrete as cold, damp weather may not be ideal and waiting may be necessary.

Mr. Van Vliet asked if other parts of the community will be involved in celebrating the grand opening of the tunnel. He suggested that a soft opening might be appropriate to allow people to begin using the tunnel before artists get in. He suggested mid-July might be a better time for a bigger grand opening event.

Chair Giordani asked the Programming subcommittee to contact the Pedestrian & Bicyclist Advisory Committee and the Recreation Department to continue grand opening discussions. Mr. Dunn suggested that musicians could be involved.

Ms. Foster asked who would be responsible for ongoing care and maintenance of any murals. Mr. Dunn suggested that as murals fade or wear out, those areas could become opportunities for new murals rather than requiring ongoing maintenance. Ms. Zook suggested that the artists themselves may be involved in maintaining their work for a minimum period of time. Mr. Dunn noted the goal of establishing public-private partnerships and private organizations could be called on to assist with maintenance so it does not become an ongoing burden requiring public funds.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Exploratory Funding and Processing: (K. Zook, R. Welsch, S. Fiore, B. Van Vliet)

No report.

B. Civic Art: (J. Giordani, S. Fiore, B. Dunn)

Chair Giordani suggested checking in with the Recreation Department for an update on the graffiti wall project and schedule for installation.

C. Programming: (K. Zook, D. Wilkie, R. Foster; N. Gaffney)

No report.

D. Publicity/Marketing: (J. Clifford, J. Giordani, R. Foster)

No report.

E. Data Collection: (D. Wilkie, R. Welsch, B. Van Vliet)

No report.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Chair Giordani noted that the fountain covers had been reinstalled in Colburn Park and the student art still looks great.

Ms. Zook summarized a letter received by the City Council expressing appreciation for the City's efforts at maintaining and beautifying Colburn Park.

Chair Giordani noted the Halloween pumpkin carvings being displayed around Colburn Park.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION by Mr. Dunn to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Gaffney.

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included Chair Giordani, Mr. Van Vliet, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Wilkie, Ms. Foster, Ms. Fiore, and Ms. Zook.

****The Motion was approved (9-0)***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Brooks
Planning & Zoning Director