

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES January 24, 2023
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (7/8) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 2)
 Nick Gaffney -Vice Chair
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)
 Devin Wilkie (Heritage Commission Rep.)
 Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)
 Brian Cook (Rep.-LOH)
 Linda Copp (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (1/8) **Karen Zook**

STAFF PRESENT: (2/2) **Kristine Flythe** (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)
 Paul Coats (Director, Leb. Rec.)-Remote

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Acting Chair Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** November 22, 2022

*Bill Dunn MOVED to approve the November 22, 2022, minutes.
Seconded by Nick Gaffney.*

**The Motion was unanimously approved (6/0).*

3. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Nick Gaffney volunteered for Vice Chair.
He was unanimously approved.

Bill Dunn nominated Jessica Giordani for Chair.
She was unanimously approved.

Linda Copp was given voting privileges for this meeting.

B. 2022 Support Wrap Up

There were numerous projects in December that were entertained to use the rest of the 2022 budget. One was for Lebanon Artways to support the ice sculpting project for Storrs Pond Centennial Celebration. The timing of the use of the funds for the event means it will actually come out of the 2023 budget.

The Banners were on display for the Board to see. They are two sizes and images of Lebanon public photo submissions. The prices were slightly lower than anticipated.

There were roving performance artists during Tis The Season. The traveling music took place, and it was well received. Paul Coates said the actual cost for the Welcome to West Lebanon sculpture sign came in

2.5 times higher than anticipated. They are delaying this purchase. A lot was accomplished by the end of the year. There was approximately \$1300 left in the budget that did not get spent.

The order of the meeting was changed to accommodate the guest presenter.

C. Adding some Color to the Crosswalks

Sean Dittrich, guest, from the Ped Bike Committee joined the group and provided a presentation that was given to the City Council. The committee has been studying how to make the cross walks more obvious with size and colors. In past times, salt and snow and ice have completely camouflaged the crosswalks. There is precedent from other towns and cities doing this to highlight high traffic zones. This project was proposed to the City Manager and DPW. They are willing to paint a few crosswalks to see how it lasts. They are wondering if Arts and Culture is interested in taking this another step to introduce some artistic talent into the cross walks. There are a broad range of possibilities. It may be important to highlight a crosswalk but is not distracting to drivers. Also, DPW would have to do the actual painting and that can be a limitation due to time and talent. Local art talent could be involved in conceptualizing the crosswalks. The idea is to concentrate where there is high traffic and a need for safety. DPW is planning on trying a few crosswalks this year.

Sean suggested that A & C could help as a point of contact, and he is happy that A & C is supportive. Anything that A & C could do to help develop a plan, designs, or assisting with making selections of designs will be welcome. He would like to be ready to go in the Spring. Jessica suggested they could form a small subcommittee to assist with the project. It is thought that keeping it simple to begin with and additional embellishment could happen in the future. Bill Dunn will begin to be the contact, working with Ped Bike and DPW. Others are welcome.

D. Vision and Goals for 2023

There was discussion. Is A & C the producers or the promoters? Part of the success of A & C is in nurturing, supporting, and promoting the art groups that are already in the Lebanon area. There are numerous Arts Organization anniversaries coming up. There could be a promotional campaign for the arts organizations in the area. The tunnel is part of the continuing projects, as are getting the banners up on the poles. There are 30 new hardware pieces for the larger banners and 16 smaller banners. It is key to announce the installation of the banners, the selection of photos that are on the banners and the names of people who provided the photos. It is hopeful that the banners will last longer now that they have wind holes. They will evaluate how long the color lasts and how long the materials lasts and when they need to be replaced. The photos were submitted to the City and they are Public Domain. They could start a photo or artwork contest to be used on the banners in the future.

They hope to continue to identify public and private areas that are suitable for visual arts. Also, when the new arts school opens this Fall, they would like to support the new school in the Downtown Lebanon area. Continued support for organizations involved in the arts will continue to be a goal of A & C.

***Lind Copp Moved to provide a presentation bouquet of flowers at the end of the February 4th fund raiser, not in excess of \$150.
Secoded by Brian Cook.***

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

At a previous committee meeting the DEI Commission extended an opportunity to partner with A & C. They will continue to look for ways that DEI would like to find ways to brainstorm ways to collaborate. Perhaps small subcommittees from each group could meet to find some opportunities for joint efforts.

Looking at the January 2022 Minutes, there were comments about public performance and other opportunities for planned spontaneity of the performance arts. And an extension of connecting artists to spaces and surfaces that are available in Lebanon, like the Tunnel and other areas.

This past year, the City approved guidelines for public art. A & C could help promote the art opportunities within the City by highlighting what they have done in the past and what they envision in the future, based on the approved guidelines.

During the farmers market a tent could be set up on the Mall to hang art, have music or debut other arts. They would like to highlight the Mall and make the space at the end of the mall a vibrant space. Lebanon Rotary intends to create a harmony park in that area, a place where kids can play music and there will be seating. It should be installed this Spring.

Ms. Flythe suggested expanding rain works, the invisible art that appears when it rains. She will continue to work with Pet Smart regarding the Welcoming Mural that has been discussed. And more use of the social media like Instagram about the Arts are good opportunities that are well received by the public.

West Lebanon needs to be kept in mind and spaces in West Leb that can be used for Public Art. They hope to continue with the sidewalk poems. At this time, the City is not doing any sidewalk work this year, but if there may be some capital improvement projects that have sidewalk work. If there are none with Public Works, the new forms that are ordered will be used next year. They hope to always have a season worth of poems ready to be put in.

There are a lot of moving parts and many things to aggregate all of these ideas. There could be a standing list of categories to keep track of throughout the year. They hope to keep opportunities for Art Activities a part of all future City projects, well before the develop plans are committed.

E. Vacant A & C Seats

Ward 1 and Ward 3 are in need of community representatives. The members were asked if they new anyone that would like to participate. The Ward seats are important to the Commission. There are 3 ward seats, 3 arts organization seats, and Devin is the representative from EDC, Council Rep, DEI, and the Heritage Commission. They may do some rearranging to fill the seats, and they will continue to draw in more people. Sometimes it is easier to enlist someone as an alternate in the beginning.

F. Tunnel Master Plan Update

Over the last week several members met to discuss the Tunnel Master Plan. They discussed sectioning off the Tunnel for areas that could be used for art. The segmenting could be more feasible and in the future portions of the art can be identified to be replaced.

There is a multi-level approach to how the art will be included. They discussed City funds, matching funds and sponsorships. It could include a number of artists and art pieces and how artists could be put together with the financial means to implement that artwork. They hope to match up artwork with financial funding.

Art could be juried and selected based on relevance to Lebanon, finding connections between the natural world and Lebanon, taking inspiration from the natural beauty of the Upper Valley as a theme. There are approximately 30 spaces for art that are the size of the current pieces in the tunnel. If 4 pieces are commissioned a year, the art would roll over about every 10 years. Three-dimensional art versus murals was discussed. They also discussed the budget of \$4000 that was provided last year, and it was thought something in the realm of \$2000 may be more appropriate. The Commission does not have the funds to do this on their own.

The pollinators signs have to be replaced because graffiti has spoiled them. Murals would provide more opportunities for tagging. The cameras are helping to identify those spray-painting episodes. There may be something that can be added to protect the murals that would allow the graffiti to be washed off.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary