

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES March 28, 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 - **Remote**
 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.)-Remote
 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** January 23, 2022

Linda Copp and Nick Gaffney were given voting privileges for this meeting.

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the January 23, 2022, minutes with amendments.
Seconded by Bill Dunn.*

Amendments: Page 1, Members Present; correct organization represented. Page 3, Line 32; Remove 'EDC, Council Rep, DEI,'.

Jessica Giordani, Nick Gaffney, Ben Van Vliet, Devin Wilkie, Bill Dunn, Brian Cook, and Linda Copp all voting yea.

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

3. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. TUNNEL MASTER PLAN UPDATED & MIRO BOARD

There is no update at this time. It will be discussed at the next meeting. Paul Coates suggested that Staff meet with Nick Gaffney on the Tunnel Master Plan as Staff have already done substantial work that can be coordinated.

Paul Coates discussed the Lebanon Strategic Plan. There is an electronic document that is like a White Board called the Miro Board. It can be used by Arts and Culture Members to provide input to the City to make suggestions for strategic goals over the next three years. He showed some high-level goals and strategies that were compiled that reflect actionable items with key performance indicators. A variety of commissions and boards across the City have a goal that reflects art considerations. Strategic Objective 4.3 for the City is to enhance the vitality of the arts and culture within the Upper Valley community. It includes energizing the arts economy as well as opportunities for public art. This directly relates to the

Charter for this Commission. There are many suggestions that relate to Arts and Culture that come from other Boards and Commissions within the City.

Paul gave examples of items that are most pertinent to Arts and Culture. The document is available on the City Manager's website. Paul will provide members with the link to access the Miro Board. He is asking members to provide input and suggestions that can be used to generate the City Budget. Members can either add tags to the document or their suggestions can be emailed to Kristine or Paul, and they will consolidate those ideas.

B. BIKE/PED UPDATES

This project pertains to the crosswalk project, where crosswalks can be highlighted in other ways than just white paint. The goal is to increase visibility and add color or design. DPW will be moving forward with some test sites. The initial work will be colors that are currently available and will not have particular designs. Public Works Staff will do the preliminary testing of painting with colors to test their capabilities. Hopefully, there will be possibilities in the future to introduce more design features that highlight the crosswalk that do not distract drivers.

C. VACANT SEATS

Wards 1 and 3 are open seats. Some recruitment has been done but at this time no one has been available. The members discussed if a Board Member can represent more than one Board. It is helpful that a member can bring ideas from more than one board or commission, but each member still has only one vote. Susan Johnson will be asked if she is interested in being part of the Board. Some members are willing to shift what organizations they represent, such as Devin representing City Council and finding another representative from the Heritage Commission. There are three seats that represent local arts organizations. Linda Copp is willing to represent the Ballet School as a representative of the community arts. Nick Gaffney is willing to move to Ward 3 representative. There is still a need to recruit a Ward 1 member and alternate members.

D. GOALS AND NEXT STEPS

Reconnecting to the Purpose and Connecting to Arts Organizations.

One suggestion is to connect to the Anniversaries of local arts organizations and connect to the Valley News. Currently Valley News is offering full page ads for half price during the month of April. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Ava Gallery and their big silent auction party will be April 28. Bill Dunn is organizing and donating an ad for that event. He is willing to do the same thing for Arts and Culture. He suggested using the Lebanon Artways logo to take up a large portion of the ad to make it highly visible and then showcasing other arts organizations and events. This could include the Ava Gallery and other local arts organizations, using their logos and a brief statement. Bill will help with the donation for the ad and to have Arts and Culture promote the ad. Kristine will work on the content and design. Bill Dunn will connect her with the Valley News Representative.

Tunnel Master Plan

This project will get traction next few Weeks.

Banner Installation.

Most of the banners are installed and are visually appreciated. The rest will be put up on the Mall soon. They are ahead of the game for the next round with all the learning curves during this first project. The life cycle of these banners is not known yet. Kristine purchased banners with air holes to make them less vulnerable to the wind and they are waiting to see how long the banners will last. They have been doing some tentative planning for the next round.

Flowers

The flowers have been sent to the New England Schools of Arts. It is anticipated that NESAs will continue to be involved with future collaborations.

Sidewalk Poetry.

They intend to keep the Sidewalk Poetry as an annual project and the next contest will be organized to get the poems ready for the sidewalks. Just thinking out loud, Ward 1 has the Kilton Library, and they did have suggestions about the sidewalk poetry. Maybe someone connected with the library or that network zone, or a resident or patron is interested in being part of the Arts Commission.

Fountain Covers.

Ava will hopefully assist with new paintings for the covers. It is thought the covers will come down in May before the first Market and Paul will check on the date because they need to decide where the covers will be stored. Perhaps Ava will take one fountain cover to work on at a time and then ask for the others to be brought over as they are worked on. Storage has been a bit of an issue in the past.

Rain Works.

It is time to start thinking about possible installations. Refreshing what has already been done would be a good idea. Some of the stickers are fading away. There are some stickers that have not been put out yet. Concrete sidewalks are better than pavement. If there are locations where there is water, such as water fountains, it would be easier to splash water on the stickers to see them instead of waiting until it rains.

Cultivating relationships across cultural organizations.

Staff have a list of organizations in the community that was created several years ago. Other organizations and businesses that have an interest in the arts can be added to the list. Kristine reminded everyone that each of the commission members are connected to the community and the Upper Valley. If every Board member reached out to 5 organizations, it broadens the connections across the community to create awareness of A & C and Lebanon Artways. The members discussed if the businesses or organizations have to be located in Lebanon. It is thought that organizations and businesses need to have some presence or connection to the Lebanon area. It can be live, work, play or some kind of presence in the Lebanon area to be engaged with the community. Residency is less essential. The list will be attached to next month's agenda.

RoundABOUTs

Lebanon Planning and DPW are planning roundabouts in prominent places that are suitable for permanent art installations. Roundabouts are being planned for prominent area. The first one that is planned is for the junction of High Street, Mascoma Street and Mechanic Street which invites 2 opportunities for public art installations. One is a 30-foot area in the Center. It could be plants or it could include some kind of artwork, sculpture or water fountain. The Rec Department is actively involved with making recommendations that will go in that area. There is a second area adjacent to the roundabout coming out of the tunnel and across the bridge and behind Goss Logan there is some space and designated open area, especially for pedestrians. The City is fairly far down the path of coming up with a theme and an idea that represents the history of that area. There could be a budget and ideas for themes to recruit artists. It would not come out of the A & C budget.

The City Manager is a huge fan of the work that Arts and Culture is doing. He is focusing on major projects that are coming before the Planning Dept and suggests requiring that a portion of the fees for each project be dedicated to providing art. The proposal is not to increase the fees, but to dedicate a portion of the already proposed fees to be directed to Artworks. It could be something the developer proposes to do or the money could be directed to the A & C to work with.

There is also a second proposed roundabout at Slayton Hill and Mechanic Street.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

May 20th Upper Valley Music Sing and Play Festival is May 20th. Hopefully, the busking tent will be located at Lucky's again this year. There will also be a show at the Opera House on the 21st.

Nexus at the Lebanon Opera House is Aust 11, 12, 13. They are also launching a new event called Hootenanny June 10 at River Park, a collection of artists. Both are free.

Ava Gallery Silent Auction is open for bids between April 14 and 28th. A party for final bids is the 28th.

Alice in Wonderland Ballet is May 5, 6 and 7th. There will be a light show in addition to the ballet.

The Spencer Street Project has hit a roadblock, it was the proposed 90-unit housing project. The development had to be cleaned up from contamination. Interest rates are higher and material costs have increased, so the developer stepped away because the contract dates could not be met. There may be other opportunities for another developer.

The Juneteenth Celebration is coming in June. They are working with Hartford who will be doing a similar event around the same time. There potentially is a documentary film Monday June 19th.

Upper Valley Business Alliance has put out their awards. DB Lights and Joe Clifford from the Opera House have been nominated. Everyone is encouraged to vote.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary