

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES August 22, 2023
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (5/7) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 2)
 Nick Gaffney -Vice Chair - **Remote**
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep.)
 Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/7) **Brian Cook** (LOH Rep)
 Linda Copp (Alternate)

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Jessica Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** July 25, 2023

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the July 25, 2023, minutes with amendments.
Seconded by Nick Gafney.*

Amendment: Correct date in Header.

**The Motion was unanimously approved (4/0/1).*

Ben Van Vliet abstained because he was not present at the meeting.

The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate a guest.

3. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

John Garoutte, a mural artist from Charlestown NH introduced himself to the members. He attended the meeting to get more familiar with the Lebanon Arts and Culture Commission and working with public art. He is impressed with the work the Committee does to bring arts to the community. Nick Gaffney reminded him about the call for artists and the tunnel. He is familiar with the tunnel area and working on a potential submission.

The members welcomed the artist and shared many of the ongoing arts related activities in Lebanon. He was informed about the Lebanon Public Art Guidelines. The City is always interested in Public Art works, even when there is not a call. The City has poetry on sidewalks. There are sculptures that are from private citizens at the end of the Mall and they welcome public and private collaborations regarding the arts. Ads are taken out locally to promote arts in the community.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. CALL FOR ARTISTS

The call has gone out in the Leb News, on all the social media sites, on the Arts and Culture and the Recreation web pages. There has been a civic send and it has been promoted by AVA. There have been two responses. Members discussed the selection of jurors for the artists' work. An official jury has not been selected yet. There are some AVA related people who are willing to be a juror, community members who could be asked, and perhaps a student from the Charter School, the arts school in downtown, or perhaps a student recommended by local art teachers. The deadline is August 28 for the intent to submit artwork.

B. TUNNEL MASTER PLAN

Everyone was provided a chance to review the Tunnel Plan document that Kristine sent to members. There was discussion about saving space for two student work locations in the tunnel. The local schools have not been notified. There is 50 feet saved for student work. New Arts High School in Lebanon, the Ledyard Charter school and SAU 88 and other potential organizations may be selected to have a dedicated section of the tunnel.

Some of the ideas on the document are conceptual and would need additional work done to bring them to fruition. Examples are the Lebanon graffiti wall and working with a private company such as the wall on the Lebanon Pizza building. The process of the whole tunnel plan is to get feedback from the members, then submit it to the City Manager for final approval and recommendations.

One thought is that the kind of art in the tunnel should be less prescriptive and leave the options open for different types or combinations of art. It was discussed that the art should not be an advertisement. It would be reasonable to have a small plaque stating that an organization or business sponsored the installation. It is thought that it may be better if the type of art is more vague, that the document does not have only to be about murals. It is reasonable to have a vision of a mural, but not a requirement. The Tunnel Master Plan is mostly directed to artists, with the provision for student work. Organizations can work with or sponsor an artist that they want to work with, such as art that is reflective of an organization's mission.

The ideas from this discussion will be incorporated into the document to create a draft for the City Manager. The City Manager may have suggestions and those ideas will be brought back to the members for final review and vote of approval. If the members have any other suggestions before the end of this week they can be incorporated. The timeline for approving the document is the September meeting.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

Bill Dunn spoke about the Nexus event. From a perspective of a member of the Economic Development Commission, he wondered if it would be possible to suspend the ban on overnight parking in the City of Lebanon during Nexus. If the invite was extended to people who use RVs, it would make the event bigger, a 24/7 event. People would enjoy using the City resources, restaurants and businesses, during the day before the music starts. That promotional component could enhance the Nexus event and benefit the City.

Nick Gaffeny said the AVA 50th Birthday Party will be celebrated on Saturday. There will be a big open house with artist demonstrations, a treasure hunt, open studios, and a great exhibition. There will also be refreshments and cake.

Jessica Giordani went to the Maine botanical gardens and searched for the Thomas Dambo trolls that are hidden in the woods. While walking through the trails to find the trolls, the walkers could see works of

art that were protected from the weather. She would like to propose that a troll comes to Lebanon, and she has some ideas of locations.

Paul Coats invited everyone to the Mud Room on September 14th. He will be stepping up to be a storyteller for the second time.

Ben Van Vliet said Upper Valley Music has been partnering with the Library to bring outdoor music to the community. There were several events at Colburn Park and passersby were equally engaged as those who planned to attend the event. They discussed the possibilities for events with Harmony Park. There is potential for involving many of the schools.

Kristine reminded everyone that September 16th is Leb Fest. There will be over 75 vendors from 11:00 - 3:00.

Paul mentioned they would still like a Ward 1, West Lebanon representative on the Board. Members were asked to help find someone who is willing to participate.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary