

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON  
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION  
MINUTES September 26, 2023  
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live  
6:30PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (4/7)**

**Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 2)  
**Nick Gaffney** -Vice Chair  
**Bill Dunn** (EDC Rep.)  
**Brian Cook** (LOH Rep)

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (3/7)**

**Ben Van Vliet** (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)  
**Devin Wilkie** (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep.)  
**Linda Copp** (Alternate)

**STAFF PRESENT: (1/2)**

**Kristine Flythe** (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** August 22, 2023

*Bill Dunn MOVED to approve the August 22, 2023, minutes with amendments.  
Seconded by Nick Gaffney.*

Amendment: Spelling correction.

*\*The Motion was unanimously approved (3/0/1).  
Brian Cook Abstained because he was not present.*

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

3. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Samantha Davis-Green from JAM attended tonight's meeting. She came to CATV in 2021. Prior to that she was involved with the Film Festival. She is bringing the two organizations together. Over the last 18 months they have relocated to Downtown White River Junction. The evolution of CATV is toward the arts. She discussed the media arts programs that will be ongoing and the upcoming plans for the near future. They are looking to be a community partner for the arts and she is excited about the great work that Lebanon does in the arts for the community.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. CITY CALENDAR AND STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**

The members reviewed the calendar and planning meeting schedule. City Council provided the big picture for the upcoming year and the pertinent timelines for anything that this Commission may want to bring forth to the attention of the City Council. It is a great resource to establish timelines for working with the City Council. It is informational for the members and there are no deadlines at this meeting.

**B. TUNNEL MASTER PLAN NEXT STEPS**

Village Pizza and Ledyard Charter School are two landowners that own the adjacent walls to the alcove section where the mural work will be going. Permission is required from these two landowners before the proposal is brought to the City Manager. Kristine will be asking for permission.

### **C. CALL FOR TUNNEL ARTISTS – MURAL SUBMISSIONS**

An artist, John Garoutte was present at the meeting and spoke of his inspiration for his mural submission. The drawing is similar to a quilt and is called Patchwork. The pictures reflect activities in the Lebanon area.

A second submission comes from two teachers. The high school students would be involved in painting the mural.

The third submission is similar in style to the second submission, but they are very different subjects. There will be more color and detail than is shown in submission drawing.

They discussed the placement of the murals with a hope that they will be more evenly distributed. Previously the murals were created off site and brought in to hang. The process will be different this time.

The artists will be given a timeline and project detail information after this meeting. It was proposed that after these pieces go up a call could go out before Spring for more murals for next year.

### **D. POETRY CONTEST PREPARATION**

There are panels produced that are waiting to be stamped in sidewalks. The members discussed that they did not want a large backlog of submissions, but they also want to start the process for a new poetry contest. DPW is able to stamp all the poetry that is already prepared. Next month the Commission will begin discussions for the next contest that could happen during poetry month.

### **E. FOUNTAIN COVERS UPDATE**

The fountain covers are not going to be painted for the cemetery this year. The Colburn Park is being rebuilt by DPW and it will be repainted next year. The fountain cover for Lucky's is in pieces and one design was painted on the Lebanon Green where people painted their rainbow during the Farmers Market. Another piece will go out this Thursday. The Ava vision was to have a base coat on each section so there is some continuity between the pieces. An afterschool program will begin painting the rest of the pieces of the fountain covers and doing their own designs with the backgrounds on the panels. It is hoped they will be done within the next few weeks and they will check with DPW when they will be installed.

## **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **None**

Bill Dunn said EVC was working on the parking lots and jumped back into the Spencer Street project. Now the City Council is managing the whole Spencer Street Project. It is important that the Arts Commission continues to have an impact for public art in that that area.

The New England School for the Arts is an amazing space. It is above the Women's Resource Center. There is a bright and sunny vestibule. The walls have 15-foot ceilings and exposed brick. It is a wonderful space. There will be an open house on October 11, 2023, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The season festival will be the first week of December. It is time to start talking about what will be done for that festival.

Last year near the end of the year there was money left in the budget. At the next meeting there will be more information about what is left to be spent. There is a \$10,000 grant for a sign for West Lebanon and Paul is still trying to find the right artist. It is unknown how much the sign will cost.

The renovations at the Opera House are ongoing. The rooms are stripped down and on target for completing construction. The lobby will be worked on later this month.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

***Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary