

FINAL

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: (5/7) **Nick Gaffney** -Vice Chair
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep.)
 Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)
 Brian Cook (LOH Rep)
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/7) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 2)
 Linda Copp (Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: (1/2) **Kristine Flythe** (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Vice Chair Nick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** September 26, 2023

*Bill Dunn MOVED to approve the September 26, 2023, as presented in the packet.
Seconded by Brian Cook.*

**The Motion was approved (3/0/2).
Brian Cook and Devin Wilkie Abstained.*

3. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. POETRY CONTEST PREP

Devin Wilkie recommended that the online infrastructure to collect submissions can be used again this year. The only new thing to do is to find judges. He said he will check for potential judges, and it may be a good opportunity to involve City staff. The library may be involved. Bill Dunn will also check with an author who has written poetry books. There are four poems ready to be used and another four winning poems, so a total of 8 poems in the lineup. The contest will be opened in April, and they hope to have everything ready to go for the February meeting. Current winners will be notified that their poems are soon to be placed.

B. FOUNTAIN COVERS

The covers for the fountain by Lucky's is ready and waiting for DPW to place the covers. Thanks were given to LOH and Lucas for spearheading the painting. Colburn Park fountain covers will be redone next year by AVA. It will become an alternating year cycle of repainting the fountain covers every other year.

C. ETHICS TRAINING NEXT MEETING

The City Manager would like to attend the January meeting to discuss the ethics training policy. He wants to discuss how it affects serving on a City Board or Commission. It is requested of members but it is not mandated. He will provide an overview of the ethics and the decorum of sitting on a board or commission.

D. MURAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The two murals in the tunnel are complete or nearly complete. It is exciting and opens up ideas for other projects in the tunnel. Writing a press release to invite people to view the murals was discussed. People will be pointed toward the murals during the Halloween Fun Fest. The Valley News did something when the first murals were put up. They discussed putting something in the Lebanon Times and Daybreak. Susan Apel is going to do an article, and the murals are stirring up conversations. They are still talking with Village Pizza and the Charter School about what can be done with the shared wall. They discussed putting out the idea for more public art and starting the mural process for 2024 in January or February.

The artists of the two murals that were recently installed will each receive \$2000 and payment for the materials for around \$400. There is roughly \$1980 remaining in the budget. One of the older murals was accidentally painted over by DPW when improper graffiti was being covered. Signs have been purchased to notify others that artwork is being produced, to keep accidents from happening again, and to inform people passing by that the people are installing art and not just painting on the walls like graffiti.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**No Committee Reports**

The next meetings may be adjusted due to the holidays. At this time the next meeting will be held on November 28 and the December meeting may be shifted to December 19th.

The Arts Economic Prosperity 6 report was released last week. The data is comprehensive and worth a read. It is valuable information for business and economics that support art endeavors in the community.

Upcoming events are UVMC – December 2nd music festival, AVA Holiday Open Grand Opening, Tis' the Season – Dec. 2nd.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Gaffney Adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary