

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES March 26, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (6/7) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 2)
 Nick Gaffney (Vice Chair; Arts Org. Rep)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep)
 Brian Cook (Arts Org. Rep-LOH)
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep-UVMC)
 Clare Geno (Citizen Rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (1/7) **Linda Copp** (Citizen Rep Ward 2)

STAFF PRESENT: (3) **Kristine Flythe** (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)
 Paul Coats (Director, Leb. Rec.)-Remote
 Shaun Mulholland (City Manager)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Kristine Flythe gave the RS 91 A announcement.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 23, 2024

***Brian Cook MOVED to approve the January 23, 2024, as presented in the packet.
Seconded by Ben Van Vliet.***

****The Motion was unanimously approved.***

The order of the Agenda was changed.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

**A. SIDEWALD POETRY CONTEST (April 1st-May 31st) -
Devin has judges lined up, Deming Holleran and Jon Escher**

Thanks to Bill Dunn and Jessica Giordani two judges have been lined up. The contest will span from April through May. All of the materials will be used from last year. They are ready to move forward.

DPW will be checked for when last year's poems will be installed.

B. DEI (D.Wilkie) – DEI is interested in seeking artists to contribute to a DEI piece for the tunnel.

In January DEI was talking about the tunnel and the Commission is taking interest. There are people who are interested. Devin Wilkie will share the call for artists when things are ready. DEI is willing to share ideas and provide conceptual context regarding diversity and inclusion.

C. HERITAGE (D.Wilkie)- Is seeking out the possibility of someone doing a tunnel piece that focuses on the history of Lebanon.

Devin Wilkie was unable to attend the last Heritage meeting. Previously there was discussion about the tunnel. The Chair of the Heritage Commission spoke to the members. Heritage is interested in taking the lead for installing a piece of art regarding Lebanon's history. They are discussing some ideas, but they have a very small budget. They are looking for guidance about how to move forward with proposals and logistics. There is an abundance of historical materials that could lend itself to using in the tunnel. Two potential ideas that are easier to execute are the high quality arial images of Lebanon and West Lebanon from 1884 and 1889. They could be blown up and projected on the wall of the tunnel. JAM may have some other materials that could be used for projection.

D. TUNNEL ART CALL for ARTIST DRAFT

The packet includes a draft of the invitation, the design challenge and the juried process for the Call for Artists. They will ask artists to submit the application packets and then the Commission will review the applicants' proposals. They hope members will take the time to review the applications prior to a meeting and then vote during a regular meeting. Artists could be allowed to present their proposals to the Commission. The members looked over some artwork that has been done in other cities, by artists from Rhode Island. There could be partnerships with the Rhode Island artists and their work could become community collaborations and partnerships in the future, such as building walls. At present, the members are looking for local artists or subjects that are related to Lebanon. The draft of the packet will be presented to the City Manager for consideration.

There was discussion about using a portion of the non-tunnel wall, the walls of the Lebanon Charter School building. The school director was supportive. The school teaches a class on event planning. If and when there is an opening event set up, the Charter School would like to participate in the event planning if the timing works out.

E. CONNECTING and SUPPORTING ARTS IN THE UPPER VALLEY

Kristine said she is ready and available to help promote anything that is happening related to the arts. The Upper Valley Arts Alliance, which is a part of the Upper Valley Business Alliance, is talking about generating an events calendar. There is going to be a meeting on April 2, at AVA, to discuss the calendar further. There has been some discussion about naming one month, the Arts month in the Upper Valley. Nexus will be August 9-10.

There is an Arts for Community Engagement grant available for \$8000. It would be a good place to apply for funding to build relationships between the community and the arts. Kristine will investigate applying.

F. RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

Some seats need to be filled. The Commission is looking for an EDC Representative and a Ward 1 Representative.

EDC is struggling for members as well. They are hoping to receive any communications that the Commission would like to send to EDC. They are still actively involved with West Lebanon revitalization. The invitation to rep with the Arts Commission will be sent out to EDC members. It is thought someone may be applying and they may know more by next month.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DEI (D.Wilkie) – DEI is intersected in seeking artists to contribute to a DEI piece for the tunnel.

Discussed during Other Business.

B. HERITAGE (D.Wilkie)- Is seeking out the possibility of someone doing a tunnel piece that focuses on the history of Lebanon.

Discussed during Other Business.

C. EDC- Invited Rep.

Discussed during Other Business.

D. ARTS ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE (Anyone in attendance)

The Opera House has String Queens, a string trio, coming next week. On the UVMC side, they are meeting remotely with some students. They will start to meet in person and the students will perform in two concerts; one will be during school hours, and one will be in the evening. Next Thursday April 4, will be a pay what you can concert. The Opera House has had steady business since the reopening. Sunday April 14th will be the first post-pandemic concert of the Upper Valley Symphony Orchestra.

The Lebanon Schools' band director has been looking for ways to keep students involved with their music during summer vacation. In collaboration with other area schools, they are hoping to have summer classes where students from area schools will meet weekly for 6-7 rehearsals and then perform during the Nexus celebration.

AVA is working on the building. The AVA show opens on April 12th. Items for the silent auction will be on view from April 12-27. April 27 is the live auction and benefit from 6-9:00. The Spring and Summer camps are on the calendar with 58 upcoming classes.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary