

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES May 28, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (6/6) **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) Remote
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep-UVMC)
 Clare Geno (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (0/6) **None**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

Brian Cook was given permission to participate remotely due to health reasons.

Clare Geno is seated as a Ward 1 representative.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES March 26, 2024

***Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the March 26, 2024, as presented in the packet.
Seconded by Ben Van Vliet.***

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

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. TUNNEL ART SUBMISSIONS -

Emily Batties attended the meeting to present an image of her proposed 3-dimensional art piece for the tunnel. It would be interactive, with 2 x 2 blocks or wooden cubes in color gradations. The blocks can be changed by people passing through the tunnel. It would be low enough so children could interact with it. It would change color, pattern and design allowing everyone to become artists. It would be about 3 feet by 6 feet. She is proposing brackets to attach the piece to the wall because the blocks need to move. She suggests it be placed on the pedestrian side of the tunnel, away from the bike path and low on the wall, closer to the end of the tunnel. But she is open to any location. Construction near the end of the tunnel in the near future may dictate where it could be placed. They discussed ways to make the piece larger to fill more space.

John Garouette proposed adding onto his existing mural that is already in the tunnel. He proposes to include more seasons, specifically some winter images. It is like a patchwork quilt with elements that reflect Lebanon. Everything is larger than life. It would be one large painting, about 25 feet wide.

Julio Muñoz Uribe, presented a mural showing detail of the hills and natural areas of Lebanon with fish to suggest the river and the river walk. The idea is to harmonize the different murals and highlight the historical environment with a base of the fish as a reference to the river and its urban importance. He suggested a placement in the tunnel based on the use of light. It integrates into the stone in the tunnel. They are discussing if the stone can be painted or if murals can only be painted on cement.

Nicholas Cain, and a team of other artists, submitted a proposal but did not attend the meeting. The proposed design would be very large, 14 feet high and stretching 120 feet toward the center of the tunnel. A shorter version is also proposed. It was suggested to be installed near the West entrance near Goss Logan and stretch toward the center of the tunnel. The mural shows a parade through the tunnel, illustrating Lebanon's culture and activities using Lebanon landmarks and the historical growth of the City.

Marley Dube sent a proposal for a 25 by 7 mural with abstract colors and a feeling of nature. It depicts the sun, the moon and eyes on a face.

***Devin Wilkie MOVED to recommend all 5 submissions presented tonight.
Second by Nick Gaffney.***

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

The Commission discussed making posters to announce the call for Mural artists in the future, as it is believed many individuals who would be interested in submitting proposals may not be hearing about Lebanon's call for tunnel art.

B. SPENCER STREET DEVELOPMENT

Chair Giovanni spoke about Spencer Street. The old DPW building location now has a proposal from a contractor. They are thinking about having art space within the building, a playground, and 80 units for below median income residents. The lower level would be live work units. There were 3 submissions from contractors and this one, that happened to include art, was the best submission. The Commission would like to connect with the contractors regarding art within the construction. Kristine will reach out to the contractor.

C. POETRY CONTEST.

There are 3 days left for submissions. Eight people have made submissions, several from each author. DPW said there will be some concrete repairs on the Mall, and some of the poetry could be installed on the Mall.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. The Music festival was a couple of weekends ago and the weather was excellent. Events went throughout Saturday and Sunday. The Busking was a huge success. There was a sing and play along, featuring folk songs. Next year is the 30-year anniversary and Sing and Play will be a feature. The Nexus Festival Band, which involves area high schools, is coming together as well. Camps are upcoming.
- B. AVA was recognized by the New Hampshire Business Association for their collaboration work with outside organizations. AVA would like to take the lead to paint the covers for the fountain in the Center of the green. Once there is space available at AVA the covers could be moved to AVA. There was a reminder discussion about bringing panels out to the farmers market and including something with a Pride motif. AVA is proposing to do covers for one fountain each year.

- C. Brian Cook said the Lebanon Opera House Pride Picnic will be June 14. Joan Osbourne will be playing at Nexus this year. They are making new announcements about Nexus.
- D. Lebanon Recreation has all the summer music arranged. They intend to send out a postcard to see if it helps bring people to the green for the music. Hopefully postcards will be hung on the fridge to remind people to come out for the music. This is week 3 of the market. The music will start a half hour earlier this year, at 6:30, to overlap with the market.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary