

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES September 24, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (4/7) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 2)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep)
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep-UVMC)
 Claire Geno (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (3/7) **Nick Gaffney** (Vice Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)
 Brian Cook (Arts Org. Rep-LOH)
 Stevens Blanchard (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

Clair Geno was given voting privileges for this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 23, 2024

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the July 23, 2024, Minutes, as presented in the packet.
Seconded by Jessica Giordani.*

**The Motion was approved (3-0-1).*

Devin Wilkie abstained because he did not attend the meeting.

The order of the meeting was changed. A member of the Public came before the Commission to read her poems that won the Poetry Contest.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. TUNNEL ART (Progress & Heritage Commission Review)

Patchwork is complete in the tunnel. It is a large mural, and it was completed quickly. The interactive mural is ready, and the artist is working on how to fasten it to the wall. Julio is adding to his work. All the other artists are working on their murals, and it is interesting to watch the installations, as they all have a different process. Some of the mural locations are being switched due to size constraints. The Lebanon Middle School and High School expressed interest in working on a mural as part of their curriculums. It will take longer to complete the mural during the school year. By summer all the murals will be complete, and no further murals will be created until the bridge work is complete. The City Manager will be asked to encumber the mural funds to allow the mural completions by next summer, the next budget year.

The Commission discussed if there will be additional compensation if a mural is expanded. If the City Manager agrees, the Commission will offer additional money to the artists who are expanding their work.

The Heritage Commission used the same parameters that the Commission provided earlier, to judge mural submissions. Their mural addresses the history of transportation in Lebanon. The Heritage Commission had multiple proposals and selected a winner from the many submissions. The Heritage Commission selected a piece, but the Commission still needs to provide approval.

Ben Van Vliet Moved to approve The Heritage Commission proposal for artwork in the tunnel. Seconded by Devin Wilkie.

****The Motion was approved (4-0).***

B. POETRY CONTEST

Raeka Mikecz, a school age author, and winner of the poetry contest came before the Commission to read her poems. She read her two winning poems to the Members. The poems should be in the sidewalks by next year.

In addition, two other winning poems of Billy Bettner and Michelle Davis, were selected during the contest and will be in the sidewalks next year. The authors were unable to attend the meeting tonight. The Commission thanked everyone who submitted poems to the contest. They have a total of 4 poems to be installed next year.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. HERITAGE COMMISSION, DEI, CITY COUNCIL

Aside from the Tunnel Art update, there is not much news. Heritage has been discussing interpretive signage to go along the greenways.

B. ARTS ORGANIZATIONS (AVA, LOH, UVMC, OTHERS)

UVMC is embarking on the 30th anniversary year and upcoming celebrations. One will take place at the LOH in March. There will be a large sing and play festival next May. Over the summer UVMC conducted a project with the school band directors from Lebanon, Hanover, and Hartford high schools. It helped people get together to make music and keep their practice going during the summer. The student musicians performed at Nexus and the experience was enjoyed by all. The participants believe this helped make the music programs stronger within the schools. UVMC is already thinking about the Holiday Music Festival.

AVA has not been able to paint the covers for the fountains this year. They were unable to get them painted in time because DPW decided to put the covers up sooner than anticipated. Next year they will try again.

The Recreation Department is trying to get involved with the Upper Valley Arts Alliance. It will take time to grow. The Alliance involves more than just New Hampshire organizations. It is actually a relaunch of the Arts Alliance, and it is being brought back by the Upper Valley Business Alliance. They hope to draw attention to the variety of Arts within the community. And to promote free, low cost, and accessible events to help communicate that art is for everyone in the community.

The Halloween festival is October 26, 2024, brought by the Recreation Department in Colburn Park. Leb Fest was last Saturday. 'Tis the Season' will be on December 7, 2024. A Winter Farmers Market is beginning in November and running through February. It will be every other week, hosted at the Powerhouse Mall. It should be accessible to people no matter what the weather.

The last three Arts & Culture meetings of the year were shifted one week earlier to accommodate the holidays. The members are discussing the number of meetings they will hold next year. It may be better to have fewer meetings to achieve better attendance.

There is still around \$7325 available from this year's budget. The stamps for the new poems, around \$2500, will come out of that amount. The members were asked to give some thought to what can be done with the funds that will provide a benefit the community.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary