

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES October 22, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (6/7) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 2)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep)
 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep-UVMC)
 Nick Gaffney (Vice Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)
 Brian Cook (Arts Org. Rep-LOH)
 Stevens Blanchard (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (1/7) **Claire Geno** (Alternate)

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

Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES September 24, 2024

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the September 24, 2024, Minutes, as presented in the packet.
Seconded by Ben Van Vliet.*

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

Nick Gaffney, Brian Cook, and Stevens Blanchard abstained because they did not attend the meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. ROUNABOUT ARTWORK

A roundabout is going in at the junction of Mechanic, High, and Mascoma Street. Artwork is being proposed by Michael Kraatz and Andrew Garthwaite who have past experiences with the tunnel and the fountain in front of Three Tomatoes. They would like to attend the November meeting to propose three artwork concepts. Paul Coates is asking if Arts and Culture would be able to find funds to pay the artists if the design work is approved. The project would begin in 2025. The members discussed the importance of clear views for traffic and how that impacts the public art options, as well as the City's Public Art Policy. The members also discussed the roundabout that is being installed near Dartmouth Hitchcock. The members are giving consideration to how the remaining budget could be allocated and spent. Some contributions may be made to enhance events that happen before the end of the year.

B. POETRY STAMPS

A quote for the new poetry stamps will come by the end of this week. Staff have confirmation that all 12 poem stamps can be put in with the next sidewalk improvements. This will include the High Street roundabout, Main Street in West Lebanon, and the Kilton Library Plaza. They will be stamped in the

traditional concrete color. After all the poems are installed, they would like to put together a small map to direct people to see all the poems across the City.

C. FULL MOON FIESTA ICE SCULPTURE

The artist has reached out to see if Lebanon is interested in participating again on January 11, 2025. The artist would create a sculpture in Lebanon. Last year the fee was \$600. The sculpture lasted a long-time last year. The work that was done last year was beautiful and well received with some participation and observation of the artwork being created. It would likely be done in conjunction with another outdoor event at Storrs Hill Ski Area. It was a good way to incorporate public art with outdoor recreation in the community.

The discussion of the ice sculpture brought forth a discussion of the Winter Festivals that begin December 7, with 'Tis the Season' and the tree lighting in Colburn Park. The local arts organizations will have a presence in Colburn Park as well as crafts, arts and vendors. AVA will have artists' work on display and for sale. There will be carriage rides. The members discussed having an ice sculpture created in the park as well. They discussed how to make caroling more prominent in the celebration, so it is heard throughout the park. They will try to encourage people to go look at the tunnel art but will not incorporate the holiday events with an event to promote the tunnel art.

D. REMAINING BUDGET IDEAS

Some members thought having one of Thomas Dambo's trolls would be fun. It would look great in Boston Lot.

The members discussed the small park area along the Connecticut River in West Lebanon. Using River Park for more events is something to consider for the future. It is a nice place to eat lunch and watch the sun set. Food trucks could be encouraged to park down there, and tables could be set up. There is a lot of potential there, but the City is still negotiating with the State regarding the land.

There is around \$4800 remaining in the budget, after the poetry stamps. The mural artists received \$2500, but design work for the roundabout should be less than actual artwork. The Commission has until December to finalize how they will spend the remaining budget. The members hope to vote on things at the November meeting. All the tunnel art will be funded by the TIFF.

Members were reminded about the indoor market in the Powerhouse Mall. It starts November 7, continuing every other Thursday until Christmas. The AVA holiday exhibition will have things on sale at the gallery beginning the day after Thanksgiving. There will be many kinds of wares, crafts, and artwork on sale. The grand AVA event will be December 7.

E. TUNNEL ART

The Heritage mural with the train and associated artwork is almost done. It has been interesting to watch the artists produce tunnel art. The Heritage mural has changed a few times as it is being created and put on the wall. When it is finished it will be signed and they will know it is complete. Who knew mural art is dynamic art?

The middle school teacher said the student work is being gathered. It is all coming together.

The wall by the Cave does not look like it will have a mural or any color any time soon. The City needs to access that area.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There are no updates from Heritage and DEI. There is an annual vigil recognizing people who have lost their lives due to homelessness. They are incorporating artists and this year it will be held in the Listen Community Center in White River. It is a call to action.

Listen and the Upper Valley Haven will be making the holiday meal together this year. It is going to be a sit-down dinner at Listen. On a related note, the emergency winter shelter is hoping to open December 16.

Paul Coates joined the meeting, and the members continued to discuss the roundabout artwork. Ultimately the City Manager approves what will be installed. They plan to pay for the design work if a design is approved. One suggestion was to make an electronic unveiling of the design options and seek input. It has to be handled carefully so people understand it is not a discussion about whether or not to have a roundabout. It only pertains to the aesthetic execution of the roundabout.

The meetings for the next two months are moved to the third week of the month due to the holidays. They will be November 19 and December 17.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary