

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES November 19, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (5/7)

Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 2)
Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep-UVMC)
Nick Gaffney (Vice Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)
Stevens Blanchard (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)
Claire Geno (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/7)

Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep)
Brian Cook (Arts Org. Rep-LOH)

STAFF PRESENT: (1)

Kristine Flythe (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)
Paul Coats (Director Recreation, Arts and Parks)

Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Claire Geno was given voting privileges for this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES October 22, 2024

***Nick Gaffney MOVED to approve the October 22, 2024, Minutes, as presented in the packet.
Seconded by Ben Van Vliet.***

****The Motion was approved (4-0-1).***

Claire Geno abstained because she did not attend the meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. ROUNABOUT ARTWORK

Paul Coats introduced Michael Kraatz and Andrew Garthwaite who have previously provided art within the City. For the Roundabout, it was decided to not follow the traditional process of going out for various artists, credentials, and qualifications. They determined to put together an A Team to move forward with the public art forward in the Roundabout.

Their goals are to have public art in the roundabout for the appreciation of public art in the community. Lebanon is a city of fountains, there may be an option to make this a fountain location as well. However, it may prove to be insurmountable, but tonight's work is not contingent on this being a fountain. Lastly, due to the historical value of this corner, there is a State requirement to keep a historical component to the art in this roundabout. They are considering using some Railroad artifacts within the fountain.

Andrew introduced four things the designers are considering. The center of the roundabout is 30 feet across. Much of it will be sculpture, with some rails making a dynamic arch. A fountain could be

incorporated. This artwork is mostly transparent so traffic can see through, and kept lower to a lower line to keep the vision open for drivers. Lastly, the sculpture, fountain, will be planted for pollinators.

Michael was approached about bending railroad rails to create a sculpture. An arch immediately came to mind, and he worked on a concept of bending the rails instead of keeping them straight. After working with the concepts, he ended with a proposal about 20 feet across and 8 to 10 feet high, with a mix of rails and granite. The color of red, from railroads, would be incorporated into the design. The final suggestion is to keep the rails straight and angle them with stepped down lengths. This would leave the rails intact, or they can determine later if they want to bend the rails. This concept will illustrate the concept of the railroad. It may not take more than 4 full size rails, but 6 would be more desirable.

This roundabout project is scheduled to begin in 2025 and there are things necessary to bring in water and electricity before the artwork is begun. They will need peers in the ground and/or granite blocks. They discussed how to incorporate a water component into the design. While it should be significant enough and should not distract drivers. It will be designed with lights to help in the darkness; and so water is not held in the fountain, which would be a problem in cold weather. Lighting options for various seasons would be desirable. One concern is protecting the artwork from people and safety for interested observers, even though there will not be any cross walks that go to the roundabout.

One of the issues is whether the water in the fountain would be fresh water or circulating water. Circulating water needs to be treated and that would not be easy to maintain in the roundabout. But fresh water is a challenge. They may pull water from the river and drain it back down to the river. The river water is the first choice.

At this time, the concept will continue to be refined. Eventually the Commission will be asked to offer an opinion and hopefully support the concept. The next step will be to build a model.

B. BUDGET IDEAS & REQUEST

There was \$8000 in the 2024 budget for the Commission. It was discussed that it might be a good idea if in the future funds could be supported for other activities throughout the year, instead of spending most of the extra money on the winter season activities. Mostly this happens that it isn't known what funds will be available until the end of the year when all the other spending has been completed. There is a balance of around \$5270 that could be spent by the end of this year.

- **Ice Sculpture Artist - \$675 ('Tis the Season)**

The artist said he can do a sculpture in the park; he just could not guarantee how long it will last. He would need electric power to do the work. He prefers to be on the ground instead of the stage.

- **Gingerbread House Making - \$2900 with Perfect Parties USA ('Tis the Season)**

This budget would allow around 150 participants. The materials are provided, and they handle the whole event, including set-up, take down and supervision. It would be a 4-hour event from setup to take down.

- **Poetry Stamps - \$2,054.30 (Install 2025)**

The poem stamps have arrived now. They are ready to be installed in the Spring.

- **Sugar Cookie Decorating Kit – Katie's Cookies \$2,000 (Santa's Tour)**

The Police Department will sponsor half the cost of the cookies. It would be a sleigh ride starting at 10 am and going to 4:30 handing out cookies to children. This was well received last year.

- **Ice Sculpture Artis - \$675 (Full Moon Fiesta 2025)**

- **Round about Design**

The Commission discussed providing \$1000 for the design work on the Roundabout.

Steve Blanchard MOVED to accept the proposed funding shown by Kristin on the spreadsheet. Seconded by Nick Gaffney.

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

The spreadsheet stated:

Wicked Good Ice	\$675
Poetry Stamps	\$2064.30
Roundabout Artist Payment	\$1195.70
'Tis the Season Ice Sculpture	\$675
'Tis the Season Ginger Bread	\$2000
Santas Tour Katies Cookies	\$500

The tunnel art is nearly complete. The middle school is working on the art, and the high school is lagging behind. A bit of the art will need to be completed in the Spring.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary