

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES March 25, 2025
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (5/7) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 2)
 Nick Gaffney (Vice Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep)
 Claire Geno (Arts Org. AVA)
 Lucas Mendelsohn (Arts Org.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/7) **Ben Van Vliet** (Arts Org. Rep-UVMC)
 Stevens Blanchard (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

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

1
2 Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

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4 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

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8 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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10 **A. February 25, 2025**

11
12 *Nick Gaffney MOVED to approve the February 25, 2025, Minutes, as presented in the March 25, 2025*
13 *packet.*

14
15 *Second by Claire Geno.*

16
17 **The Motion was approved (3-0-2).*

18 Devin Wilkie and Lucas Mendelsohn abstained.

19
20 **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

21
22 **A. Public Art: LOH request for sidewalk chalk on Colburn Park, June 13th.**

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24 LOH is hoping to do sidewalk chalk art in Lebanon for a special private event. The request will require
25 final approval from the City Manager. The members endorse this request.

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27 *Nick Gaffney Moved to endorse the request for sidewalk art.*

28 *Second by Claire Geno.*

29
30 **The Motion was approved (5-0).*

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32 **B. Miro Board Review**

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1 At the last meeting the members focused on strategic objective 4.3. It was a good process and Krstine
2 updated the MIRO Board based on the discussion. Each suggestion was entered as KPI or updated to its
3 current state. Kristine reviewed the previous suggestions, updated what has been completed and what is
4 hoped to be done in the future. Many items have been completed. The banners are finally installed on the
5 Lebanon Mall and the garland is removed. Kristine gave the timeline of the KPI for 20/24/2029. The
6 RFP for building up Private/Public Partnerships is one of their goals as well as the welcome to West
7 Lebanon sign. The Lebanon Artways branding is done. There are other ways the Commission has
8 brought art to the Upper Valley, including installing the graffiti park and the Fountain covers.
9

10 Kristine asked the members to review the changes and make suggestions to her by the first week in April
11 if anything needs to be changed. In late April there will be a work sessions with the City Council. They
12 will review the entire strategic plan and take a final vote in May.
13

14 C. Poetry Stamps

15
16 There will be upcoming paving projects which means the stamps can be incorporated into the concrete
17 work. Kristine suggested giving DPW the list of the first poems that need to go installed; and providing
18 them with the sizes of the other poem stamps and allowing DPW to make the final decision of where they
19 will be installed. The list of all the potential areas are high traffic and high visible areas across the whole
20 town. Kristine will reach out to find out how the commission needs to assist in getting the poems in
21 place. It could be a good idea to take some pictures during the installations of the poems to use in the
22 future. It is a time-consuming process to get the stamps into the concrete. The DPW is very careful
23 during the installations. The stamps need to be stepped on and walked on with pressure to get them
24 properly installed and make the impressions deep enough. They may attempt to tell the authors when
25 their poem is being installed. For the time being, the poetry contest is paused until the existing stamps are
26 on the ground.
27

28 D. Lebanon Mall Banners

29
30 The banners are up.
31

32 E. Taste & Traditions: June 14th

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34 Taste and Traditions is a full weekend event that is sponsored by Meagan Henry and the Library. It is
35 hoped individuals will share what traditions they have, what they do at home, and bring a dish to share
36 with people. Or individuals can do a craft, share a cultural tradition they have in their home, or do an
37 activity. The event is free. They are asking the Commission to help promote the event and ask people to
38 be involved. They have been wanting to do something with an international flare, and this is a first step
39 for the Commission. This is not intended to promote businesses but rather sharing within the community
40 members. The members discussed how they might like to be involved.
41

42 There is a planned budget for the event and Meagan and the Library are looking for sponsors to help with
43 the event. The members realized that not doing the poetry contest this year leaves some funds that could
44 help support the event. They reviewed the other events they usually support throughout the year.
45

46 *Lucas Mendelsohn MOVED to put \$2000 toward the Taste and Tradition event.*
47 *Seconded by Nick Gaffney.*
48

49 **The Motion was approved (5-0).*
50

51 F. Visual Art Contest during NEXUS?

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53 Previously the members talked about how the arts could be brought into Nexus. Nexus is August 8-10
54 this year. They could coordinate a visual art contest, or another type of arts contest. One suggestion is to
55 have an art display on the fence surrounding Colburn Park. The art would have to be weather safe art.

1 The actual art could be put up, or a banner could be made of visual art pieces that have been submitted. It
2 does not have to be a contest, it could just be showcasing art. There could be an element of curating the
3 art, so it is cohesive and feels satisfactory for the broad community. After all, everyone is an artist, so
4 come and create something. Or it could be art that is built together during the event. The scale of the
5 fence is important to consider as well. Maybe some cheap canvas and paints that are weatherproof could
6 be provided and those are the materials that are available. Or the idea could be to create weatherproof art,
7 with or without a theme. One theme could be the idea of the Mascoma River, where it flows, and it could
8 have an environmental flavor, a-coming-together to embrace the river. They will have to make some
9 stipulations that will make the sizes reasonable and the proper way to install the art on the fence. The
10 inside of the fence is likely a better place than the outside of the fence due to traffic and parking. They
11 could use color or signage to invite people into the park and minimize the visual barrier. The space by the
12 entrances could be used to attract attention and draw people into the center of Colburn Park to view all the
13 art. The art could restrict use of any verbiage in the art. They could extend invitations to local groups
14 like the summer camps, Spark, and the senior center. Some members and staff will get out to take
15 measurements and make recommendations for a vote in May. Kristine will be on point to get these ideas
16 rolling for the Commission to vote.

17

18 **G. Tunnel Art**

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20 There are one or two artists who will get started in April to finish their pieces. They are checking to
21 determine if any other artists need to be recruited. The High School has not committed. NESAs are
22 interested in creating a mural and they will come up with a proposal from the students.

23

24 **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

25

26 **A. City Council, DEI, Heritage (D. Wilkie)**

27

28 DEI also heard about the Taste and Traditions, and they also want to collaborate. They have included a
29 multicultural event in the past. Heritage is looking at the MIRO Board and what to do with Dana House.
30 Dana House is located on Seminary Hill and purported to be the oldest standing house in Lebanon and
31 West Lebanon. The City owns the building and the school district owns the land. The Dana House has
32 recently been defunded. Over recent years there has not been any agreement on how the building could
33 be used.

34

35 **B. Arts Organization Updates: LOH, AVA, UVMC, and others present**

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37 AVA education classes for summer and summer camps are on the way. Some new exhibitions are
38 coming and there will be a reception next week.

39

40 LOH was just certified as a disability friendly business. They have a big Spring season, with many shows
41 ongoing. The first education series performance of the season is coming Monday, May 31, a Japanese
42 drumming ensemble will perform. They are looking forward to the percussion discussion Africa
43 Residency which will culminate in a free concert on May 8. It is open to the whole community.

44

45 The farmers markets begin May 15, 2025. This week the confirmation of vendor applications will be
46 finished. Farms have rolling admissions due to what is available during the season.

47

48 The federal and statewide funding for the arts are amiss. The NH House voted to eliminate the NH State
49 Council of the Arts and the State Library, which is the oldest library in the nation. The Council of Arts
50 provides a lot of funding for the arts and to individual artists. There is an advocacy unit from NH, that
51 people can reach out to express their concerns. This will have a big impact on the arts community.

52

53 The Upper Valley Music Center is celebrating their 30th anniversary, 30 hours of play, on May 17-18.
54 They had a huge concert last week followed by a party at AVA to celebrate.

55

1 **5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

2

3 No comments.

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5 **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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7 *Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM.*

8

9 Respectfully submitted,

10 Linda Billings

11 Recording Secretary