

DRAFT

**CITY OF LEBANON  
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION  
MINUTES July 22, 2025  
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live  
6:30PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (5/5)**      **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)**      **Stevens Blanchard** (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

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

---

Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Nick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Jessica Giordani recently stepped down. The members thanked her for all her years of service.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. May 27, 2025**

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the May 27, 2025, Minutes, as presented in the July 22, 2025 packet with amendments.*

Page 1, line 12: correct spelling.

*Second by Lucas Mendelsohn.*

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

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Public Art Proposal**

Devon Blanchard proposed a permanent Gove lighting installation on the band stand. The lights would go around the band stand. He offers to maintain the system and keep the lights operating. The lights would operate on a timer. Paul Coates would like it to be a temporary installation, until it is observed how the lights fit with the variety of uses of the band stand. The Board asked what ongoing expenses would come to the City and who would modify the lights and the cycles. They questioned if the lights would be inward facing or outward facing. If the lights became the property of the City, would they need to be insured. The applicant provided a picture of what the lights would look like on the band stand. Right now, there are three perimeter lights that are only used for shows, but it is not clear if those lights still work. The intent is to make a decorative statement. The members discussed who could make the decision about what lights are showing, when they would show, and what the pattern would be. They

discussed determining if the lights would interfere with any other lights during other celebrations. They could consider a test run to see how things work and then determine if the installation would continue. The members suggest that the City maintains control. The proposal is under the public art display, which means the City has ultimate control over the artwork.

The members would make a recommendation with consideration. The City Manager has final approval. It is likely that the cost of electricity is minimal but that needs to be evaluated. It also requires consideration of how this affects the total electricity supply at the band stand for other purposes.

Devon Blanchard is offering to donate his time and effort, and the actual lights. Public art installations include a small sign stating the person doing the installation. It is possible that the lights could be put up for a temporary event that will be August 2. After that it would be determined if the lights would continue to be installed. The members want to make sure the installation does not interfere with any of the upcoming events on the Green in August.

The members are supportive if the Rec Dept is managing the requirements and conditions, based on the wants and needs of the department.

#### **B. Opera House Chalking**

The Opera House asked to do an installation for Chalking during Nexus. It is typically done every year. The members were supportive.

### **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There is no longer a Chair, but the Commission has a Vice Chair. There are several open positions as well, and 2 vacant alternate spots. There is no representation from the EVEC and Heritage committees. There are openings for Ward 2 and an Arts position.

Some interpretations say quorum is based on the number of seats, not on the number of members. The reason it is being brought up is that the make-up of the Board may need to be changed to make sure a quorum is present for meetings. Perhaps two seats should be removed by the City Council, Heritage and EVEC. Right now, there is not anyone to fill those positions. The Commission wants to get clarity about the parameters of the number and types of members that should be on the Commission. It was discussed if members need to be residents or Arts organizations have to be from Lebanon. They will try to craft a policy that is inclusive as well as flexible and bring it back in September after further review.

The members are planning to vote for a new Chair at the Fall meetings. They will also try a small recruitment effort to bring in new members. They will also make an effort to work with the City Council to define the number of members for the Commission.

#### **A. Arts Organization Updates: LOH, AVA, UVMC, and others present**

AVA has many summer camps ongoing. There is an art opening this week and one next month. They are planning an event called Summer Sizzler. There will be hot dogs at the event. Exhibitions of artists will open in October. The new Executive Director is invited to the September meeting of this Commission.

LOH is doing several things, including an exciting Nexus. All stages will be in the park. They are also ramping up to an exciting Fall season with a range of artists coming through, with enough time to get local events and student performances on the calendar. They are excited about the Fall residents.

The Rec Department has the music concerts on Thursday. The Children's series wraps up the end of July. Some people have asked where the Monday night concerts went, but due to budget cuts it was dropped. Fairlee has large artists events that are free on Thursdays, with is some competition for Lebanon audiences. The Farmer's Market is going strong.

**B. City Council, DEI, Heritage (D. Wilkie)**

**5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

No comments.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*Nick Gaffney Adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary