

CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES, February 23, 2021
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM

MEMBERS PRESENT (7/10): Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3)
Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)
Devin Wilkie (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)
Rebecca Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1)
Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep.-AVA Gallery)
Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)
Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (3/10) Sherry Fiore (Alt.)
Joe Clifford (Vice Chair; Arts Org. Rep.-LOH)
Mimi Hains (Heritage Commission Rep.)

STAFF PRESENT: (2/2) Kristine Flythe (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec),
Paul Coats (Director, Leb. Rec.)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

A. Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A "Right-to-Know" requirements.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 26, 2021

Chair Giordani opened review and discussion of the January 26, 2021 meeting. Taking any corrections or discussion.

Mr. Dunn: if we correct Page 6 – Line 35 strike "I am part of" and strike "and that" – The sentence will read The West Revitalization is a subcommittee of the Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Van Vliet: Page 5 – Line 23 "space between maybe."

Hearing no further corrections Chair Giordani opened for a Motion to approve the minutes as corrected. ***MOTION to Approve and Accept the minutes for the January 26, 2021 was made by Mr. Dunn to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Gaffney.***

Chair Giordani hearing no discussion moved to a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Members voting in favor included: Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Van Vliet, Ms. Foster, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Dunn, Chair Giordani.

****The Motion was approved (6/0) and recorded by Mrs. Flythe.***

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Working Groups & Committees – Right-to-know clarification.

Ms. Flythe: shared that she and Mr. Coats reviewed RSA's interpretation of Right-to-Know and found clarification on working groups. The term "public body" is any group regardless of size from the commission and that small group is a "public body" and can also have a quorum even if the group size is 3. Which we would then need to do what we do for the larger commission meeting, and post an agenda, record, take minutes, etc.... etc.... Which was not the direction I believe we wanted to go in as it is more work for everyone. The idea that was tossed around, and we even chatted with David Brooks and that one person takes on a task and knows those folks that are interested in that task, and then reports back to the larger commission. So, we are not having to do what we already do once a month.

Chair Giordani: right in addition to our regular meeting. That makes sense.

Mr. Coats: now the difference in the work that happens there, this is an option and we are not dictating anything here and it is open for discussion. The idea would be for instance if the working group of the tunnel group instead of 3 people that are assigned, which then becomes a public body, it would be 1 person say Mr. Gaffney and I'll be in charge and Mr. Gaffney can pull in anyone from the commission or the public and as long as it doesn't pull in for quorum of 5 people. You'll have less than 5, you can do a lot of discussion and you can't actually vote on anything, and anything you want the arts commission as a whole to vote on you will bring back to the group at the monthly meeting and in these committees you'll just do work.

Chair Giordani: I think that feels right. It makes sense. Nobody is looking to duplicate mini versions multiple times a month for us to be productive to get anything done. If anyone has any further thoughts, please share. I think this is a smart solution to a complication we didn't expect.

Mr. Gaffney: If we had them the way we had planned to have them would we have to invite the public to those meetings potentially. Mr. Coats and Ms. Flythe nodded yes to Mr. Gaffney's question.

Chair Giordani: also answered yes to Mr. Gaffney's question.

Mr. Wilkie: in a task force I did in another summer this worked well and everyone was involved in some capacity and this would be a good solution for us to move forward to get the work done.

Ms. Zook: makes good sense.

Chair Giordani: let's revisit the groups we did in January. Coalition for the Arts Organizations point person Mr. Gaffney. Sidewalk Poetry Project point person Mr. Dunn. Fundraising point person Mr. Wilkie. Branding point person Mr. Van Vliet. Tunnel Chair Giordani.

B. Ped-Bike Committee Ideas for tunnel opening

Mrs. Flythe: Rebecca Owens reached out to Arts & Culture - The idea is for Ped-Bike to partner with A&C to create a classic/beautiful **commemorative design** that goes on fliers/announcements for the tunnel event, and to possibly sell related event-branded items as joint A&C/Ped-Bike fundraiser for an MRG extension and/or MRG-NRT maintenance? Could be a collector item(s). Ideas include handkerchiefs, dog bandanas, t-shirts, neck gaiters, reflective this-and-that, towels, socks, reflective stickers, bumper stickers.

Mr. Van Vliet: sounds like a great branding opportunity. The question is where the art comes from. We are going to be in this position where when the city sees a graphic design around the corner and can be a great opportunity if we can leverage it, we would have to create the capacity.

Chair Giordani: I think that's fair.

Mr. Coats: However this tunnel grand opening is one of our major events to put together and some level we will need to budget and that could be for musicians to play, graphic artwork to commemorate the event. Plus, theoretically if we are selling

things before it's considered fundraising dollars it could be towards the cost of making said items. I say that at this state of it all don't let the budget be a limiting factor.

Mr. Van Vliet: what is our budget?

Ms. Flythe: \$5,000 same as previous year.

Mr. Van Vliet: generally it's a good idea and as branding & outreach I can start working on that. Again, this would be coordinated with the tunnel event we are planning. Did we establish a time for that?

Mr. Coats: we can plan for July. Soft opening in June and GRAND opening in July and we can think not in this meeting but in another or if it will be done in conjunction with 4th of July.

Ms. Foster: we have a new brand, you have a new brand, and how do we maximize the brands and something that makes sense to sell.

Mr. Van Vliet: yes, I think the effort will go into simplifying. Of the list which would be the few to go with. If there is art how does it factor in.

Ms. Zook: we should identify a small pool of artists to call on to make art. Even if we know of a group of 2-3 people it would be great, we could call upon them. Let's make it a goal to make a list to have a list of folks on who to go to and also support a local creative economy such as our screen printers are having a hard time – t-shirts would be great.

Mr. Wilkie: to echo Ms. Foster's point is a good one, that while we have all the new branding going on, we shouldn't try to create brand new branding but closely related to already existing creative work. Second this collection of potential artists could be held in outreach or coalition building and designate someone from either of those tasks to be the keeper of the list and share that with that person.

Mr. Dunn: we have to call attention to the new branding, plus the experience of the tunnel, and its bringing art to the location, and that there is movement with parks and rec and connecting of the 2 pathways, something simple with the t-shirt and screen printing works well with this, and showcase the arts ways logo, tunnel project – more than passing through.

Mr. Coats: I was just looking at the word mark and looking of how to incorporate the tunnel and the more than passing through.

Chair Giordani: I like the idea of having something that people can wear on t-shirts or whatever and we are looking at the tunnel as not just a hole to walk through. It's going to become an iconic fixture of the city and accessible to everyone always. We have an opportunity to everyone to feel a connection to this space.

Mr. Van Vliet: fusing of the recreation & arts space.

Ms. Zook: I served on Bike-Ped for a little while. They don't have an identified logo and we won't need to combine all three logos.

Mr. Van Vliet: it will be Arts & Culture and Recreation as well as bikes somehow.

Ms. Zook: and this is a conversation they have been having for a bit. These reflectors for pedestrians and cyclists and as they have had this idea for a while. The idea that pins, different shapes, or have one with the Artways logo would not be something I'd be opposed to.

Chair Giordani: as the tunnel point person and I'll reach out to Rebecca and see what she is envisioning and bring information to the March meeting.

C. Arts & Planning Social Call – by the American Planning Association topic of “Beyond Murals: How do we plan and create like Black Lives Matter?”

Ms. Flythe: it is knowing your community and not just putting up murals. How can more be done including art policy an incorporating into building/consideration. There is a deeper level than just putting art up but being intentional and knowing your community and the impact and difference it could make. It connects to what Chair Giordani has shared in building those relationships with other coalitions and knowing the community.

Mr. Dunn: there may be an opportunity in the poetry talk I'll table my comments till then.

Mr. Wilkie: we talk about this in the book publishing world. It's being intentional about our outreach, looking for inspiration and opportunities. There are blind spots in positions of power. If we are making sure we include on the list of artists, any other groups that we are not representing, including people of color I think that would go a long way toward achieving those goals.

Chair Giordani: it is an important point and I think the Arts Commission are in a unique position to be intentional in our outreach to the community.

D. Interest expressed from a Non-Resident to join Arts & Culture Commission

Chair Giordani: I believe there was an e-mail from another member from a different town expressing interest.

Ms. Zook: we have space if affiliated with an arts organization. There are members that don't live in town so being affiliated with an arts organization would need to establish a connection.

Mr. Van Vliet: is this person looking to do more than just sitting in on the meeting. Because the public can sit in on any meeting.

Mr. Coats: yes, I can fill in some of these blanks. My initial response is not currently affiliated with an arts organization and wants to be. She has ideas on how arts can help revitalize the community. She was interested in Lebanon. She wants to convert the old fire house becomes an art museum, or a place where arts & culture gathers for public space, display, poetry readings, and so on and how to further the work. She wants to see arts & culture thrive. She doesn't have those affiliations or residency and we could invite her to attend as a public member.

Ms. Foster: we had another lady that would attend Katrina was doing statistics. Not a member of the commission but did make comment.

Chair Giordani: This person can dial in and join in.

Ms. Foster: we even had the boy's scouts join.

Mr. Coats: point of order question (should I explain) – Would she need to be acknowledged and called upon?

Ms. Zook: what we did with Katrina was able to participate and just not vote. If we had many we would have to revisit or hold to a 3-minute public comment.

Chair Giordani: we are supportive in this commission and do what we need to be correct in structure, but also a more open environment and would want her to be able to contribute and as long as she understands the vision of the commission we are receptive to all the creative energy and we will take.

Mr. Wilkie: as we grow but opening seats for non-residents and be an arts center in the upper valley but a discussion to have and use Lebanon as a Recreation center.

Ms. Foster: any person would have to go through the city council.

Ms. Zook: the designation of these seats is the council.

Chair Giordani: when we are there we can reach out to council.

Mr. Coats: will connect with the Non-Resident interested in participating in our March meeting.

E. Planning & Goals for 2021 Updates:

Chair Giordani: Logo sharing opportunities.

Ms. Flythe: e-mailed junction but have not heard from them.

Chair Giordani: shared Arts & Culture were on the front cover of the Lebanon times for the Graffiti Park.

Chair Giordani: formal press release/announcement of Lebanon ArtsWays Branding.

Mr. Van Vliet: has anything been done for it?

Ms. Flythe: I know you created it would you like for it to go out more formally into the universe.

Mr. Dunn: when we get to the poetry project we will share more.

Chair Giordani: Public Art Policy if any updates please share. None

Chair Giordani: West Lebanon Revitalization efforts and art will go with the sidewalk poetry project.

Chair Giordani: Special events/collaboration still practice social distancing – July as an open period. We are planning 4th of July celebration, and we will still have COVID precautions and that is plan and it's coming down to the vaccine distribution and based on the schedule/projections and a benchmark we want to reach before we are fully open and have those protections in place. If things are delayed, we may delay the opening date even more. However, we are making plans as we can move ahead.

Chair Giordani: we just stay nimble, remain hopeful and be flexible.

F. Tunnel working group - (J. Giordani)

G. Sidewalk Poetry Project (B.D) –

Mr. Dunn: Myself, Ms. Zook, and Ms. Foster met for 30 minutes. Ms. Zook shared that St. Paul has a project where they imprinted poetry into the sidewalks and now over 10 years, they have 1000 pieces of poetry embossed into the sidewalks. Rather than using writing from published poets its citizens are writing the poetry and folks submit and the commission and votes on which poetry gets stamped. It becomes an enthusiast community opportunity and that is what the end goal is. We have the opportunity in West Lebanon. to create the same thing. Once we determine what sidewalks are being dug up, getting public works on board, and the community on board to make poetry. Once we create it will be a permanent visual aspect. What can we do now? St. Paul has the chalk option as a non-permanent solution and invite the public to do things in parking lots, at the tunnel, during events and a non-permanent option. Mass poetry in Boston, and a non-permanent solution. They use Rain Works – hydrophobic spray, and you make stencils, and spray this aerosol and when it rains it pops out. You put this at bus stops, and it can be anything with cardboard stencils with poetry, and our logo, and at the music center, and it works better with concrete versus asphalt. Now we have 2 fire depts one in Leb. and West Leb. and using big stencil in front of one saying UV Music center 2 doors down to promote the arts, promote poetry, we can get the community jazzed about it and getting the buy in for the permanent embossing a side walk and generate the enthusiasm for a non-perm solution. We can promote arts organizations, rec opportunities, scavenger hunt, and we could do some social justice messaging, and someone to design 2 colors. When doing the branding for Lebanon Artways it would work well for this. We could use this as an opportunity to use this for the logo, or April is national poetry month and the logo along with it. We want this to be community source, and maybe we as the commission act as the spray artist and secretly plant 10 secretly and launch in the valley news and build awareness that way. Tonight, for the permission to buy a book. However, we are excited, and we can build enthusiasm and let's have a conversation on how to make it work.

Ms. Foster: St. Paul has a consulting group as folks are wanting to do this as they have so many towns that want to do this including Key West. She will get back to us on how they do this and the process for the long term and we can have a plan for public works and not a trip hazard.

Mr. Dunn: and the closest Rainworks is Methuen, MA and then PA. It's invisible to our community and a chance for us to pop.

Mr. Van Vliet: I think this is an idea has a lot of legs. The idea as a game and put the logo in different places and have a prize and if it's timed for in the spring for people to get outside then you tap into the let's get outside and walk around energy.

Ms. Zook: I started to get the idea that everything is planned a weekend and then hope it rains and wait for the response.

Ms. Foster: would we combine the chalk and rain works.

Mr. Dunn: I think there are lots of opportunity and bring our enthusiasm and concept back and give permission to do this. The Rainworks itself can last 3-4 months and does work on vertical surfaces.

Ms. Foster: have the libraries be involved with poetry.

Ms. Zook: and I spoke with one of the librarians and they would be all in to pick poetry, make poetry and paint stencils.

Chair Giordani: this is very excited and thrilled. This will be great with Lebanon and maybe inspire other towns too.

Ms. Zook: what's the cost?

Mr. Dunn: we can go through the company and use a little goes a long way. However just needing a few bottles and it takes 2 coats. Need concrete, have your stencil, secure your stencil, block the wind, wait 5 minutes, and 45 minutes later it's hydrophobic. If you have anyone at the bus stop you've created a mural spot. There are lots of ways to play on this and brings the visual fun, creativity to bring to Lebanon, social matters, and could be a guide to Lebanon ArtWays. This WAY to AVA gallery, this WAY to UV Music Center. I look at these opportunities as a great public-private partnership. Maybe it would be cool if someone could sponsor this. There are the 2 option bottles for 2 oz or 16 oz. It could \$10 per art piece.

Ms. Zook: could we do 10 of the smaller bottles, and a few larger bottles to break out into 10 small bottles. In the meantime, see what we could do with the fundraising group.

Mr. Coats: staff will order enough supplies to get us started.

Mr. Dunn: and take a few minutes after the meeting and check out the video and understand the concept and process. There is a map as well and I would be if 10 pop up in Lebanon that Rainworks would take note of that and some additional publicity.

Chair Giordani: Exciting project!

Ms. Zook: I'll be happy to collect boxes from Omer & Bobs for stencil supplies.

Mr. Coats: asked Mr. Gaffney could you take a photo to stencil to make this open to another artwork? Like how we transfer a photo to a cake design or something to metal.

Mr. Gaffney there are ways to do it if its simple artwork, and AVA has artwork, and possibly some stencils I'll look into it.

Chair Giordani: Thank you for the work that you all have done. This give us a on the horizon project to look forward to.

H. Fundraising (D. Wilkie) no updates.

I. Branding & Outreach (B. Van Vliet) no updates.

J. Coalition Building amongst Art Organizations (N. Gaffney) no updates.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No open discussion from the public.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

***A MOTION by Mr. Van Vliet to Adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Mr. Wilkie.***

Chair Giordani move to vote.

Roll Call Vote: Members voting in favor to adjourn Mr. Van Vliet, Ms. Foster, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Wilkie, Ms. Zook, Mr. Dunn, Chair Giordani.

****The Motion was approved (7/0) and recorded by Mrs. Flythe.***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine Flythe
Program Coordinator
Recreation & Parks Department