

**MINUTES**  
**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
**January 20, 2021**

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. virtually via GoToMeeting (485020157).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kristien Foss, Chair  
Sandy Schlehr, Vice Chair  
Jeanne Close  
Carole Milan  
Pat Fielder  
Natalie Weeks  
Jessica Valis

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Angela Robertson, Economic Development Coordinator  
Donna Kahoe, Town Commissioner  
Elizabeth Janney, Bel Air Patch  
Cheryl Manns  
Catherine Butrim, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2020

Ms. Milan moved and Ms. Fielder seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting. The motion carried.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Milan moved and Ms. Fielder seconded the motion to re-elect Ms. Foss as Chair and Ms. Schlehr as Vice Chair of CAC for 2021. The motion carried.

FY21 Budget Review

Ms. Robertson stated that there were no expenditures since last month's meeting. The balance for marketing remains \$4,217.50. The public art balance remains \$3,140.00.

Other

Former CAC member Cheryl Manns joined the meeting briefly to say goodbye to the CAC members. The CAC members thanked Ms. Manns for over 30 years of service to the Town between CAC and the Economic and Community Development Commission (ECDC).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Alfred Hilton Mural Project Update

Ms. Robertson stated that she received a letter from American Legion Post #55, which included a request for \$3,200.00 sponsorship from CAC to be applied to a portion of the artist's fee for the mural. She advised that she received the letter this afternoon, and she has emailed the letter to all the CAC members.

Ms. Robertson advised that Jack Pabis quoted an \$8,000.00 fee to complete the mural; however, the American Legion noticed some elements of the sketch submitted that they would like to make more historically accurate. This resulted in a cushion added to the budget, which the American Legion now has listed as \$12,000.00. Ms. Robertson advised that she does not believe the artist's fee will change that significantly but that she will keep CAC updated.

Ms. Robertson advised that the Legion has been able to raise over \$4,000.00 to date from members and a non-member, who contributed \$1,000.00. She advised that the Legions' fundraising campaign began in December and will continue until the middle of May.

Ms. Robertson advised that there is \$3,140.00 remaining in the public art account. She advised that the Bel Air Downtown Alliance (BADA) is contributing \$2,800.00 from their Keep Maryland Beautiful grant funding to the project. Ms. Fielder suggested that CAC match the \$2,800.00 being allocated to the mural by BADA since there is only \$3,140.00 left in CAC's public art account. Ms. Weeks recommended that the remainder of the funding in the public art account be contributed to the mural as CAC has no other projects pending this fiscal year. Ms. Valis agreed that the remaining \$3,140.00 should be allocated toward the Legion mural.

Ms. Weeks moved and Ms. Fielder seconded the motion to allocate the remaining funds in the public art account, in the amount of \$3,140.00, in sponsorship of the Alfred B. Hilton mural project at 115 North Bond Street with the understanding that the funds will be applied to the artist's fee for the mural.

The motion carried.

Ms. Schlehr noted that the sponsors plaque included in the concept drawing is very large.

Ms. Robertson advised that the Downtown Alliance needs to expend their funds by the end of February, and their contribution will pay the first installment of Jack Pabis' contract fee in February. She advised that CAC's sponsorship will pay the second installment payment to Mr. Pabis in the spring.

Application / Guidelines for Public Art & Performance Art Funding Requests

Ms. Robertson stated that the applications and guidelines for public art and performance art funding requests are now available on the Town and Arts & Entertainment District websites.

Ms. Fielder advised that she has the names of two (2) accomplished muralists and inquired if there is a way that she can register their names. Ms. Robertson advised that she does maintain a list of muralists for any requests received by the Town. She advised that the artists should also sign up with the Maryland State Arts Council's artist registry.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Maintenance on Queen Anne's Lace Sculpture

Ms. Robertson advised that she has noticed some spots where the finish has deteriorated on the Queen Anne's Lace sculpture, and she has reached out multiple times to the artist, Matt Harris. She has not received a response, but she will continue to try to contact him.

Ms. Fielder advised that the artist should be responsible for maintenance and noted that the contract should address this issue. She inquired if the contract has any guarantees about the longevity of the sculpture. Ms. Robertson stated that she will review the contract for any language regarding maintenance or guarantees.

Ms. Milan suggested that any further communications to the artist be sent via registered mail. Ms. Schlehr suggested that the communication include photos of the spots that need maintenance. Ms. Valis recommended that future contracts regarding public art include guarantees or warranties for 5-10 years.

**OTHER:**

A&E District Update

Ms. Robertson stated Maryland Arts Day will be held virtually on February 11, 2021 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Registration is \$10.00/person. Ms. Robertson advised that there is funding in the CAC budget to pay for registration if any members would like to attend. She will email the agenda to the members, and they can inform her if they would like to attend. Ms. Close inquired if CAC funding eventually comes from this event. Ms. Robertson advised that CAC's budget comes from the budget of the Bel Air Town Commissioners, but Harford County Cultural Arts Board's (HCCAB) funding and Arts & Entertainment District funding does come from the Maryland State Arts Council.

Ms. Robertson advised that the Bel Air A&E District is up for redesignation this year. She advised that this process occurs every 10 years. Ms. Robertson advised that she will be

approaching CAC next month to obtain feedback about changes, improvements and goals for the A&E District. Ms. Milan requested the questions ahead of time, so the members can be ready with their responses.

Ms. Robertson advised that an advisory board to the A&E District is being developed, which was recommended by the Maryland State Arts Council. The advisory board will hold their initial meeting in February, and Ms. Weeks will be serving on the board. Ms. Robertson noted that she is working with a consultant, who is helping to create a 5-year strategic plan for the A&E District.

Ms. Fielder inquired how the advisory board will impact the role of CAC. Ms. Robertson advised that the advisory board for the A&E District will not affect the work of CAC, as she will still report to CAC regarding the A&E District and the A&E advisory board will not work with a budget but rather on long-term goals for the A&E District.

#### Winter Wonderland

The members present expressed how impressed and proud they were of the Town and Downtown Alliance's efforts for the 2020 Winter Wonderland.

Ms. Schlehr stated that she would like to see all the downtown businesses participate with lights next season.

Ms. Fielder stated that she would like to see more coordination for Winter Wonderland between the Town, the Downtown Alliance, the downtown businesses.

Ms. Kahoe advised that there is a five-year plan for Winter Wonderland in place.

Ms. Robertson advised that this was the second year of Winter Wonderland, and it has doubled in size already. She noted that Winter Wonderland is its own separate committee, and it works very closely with the Alliance, Town and businesses.

Ms. Robertson advised that the Winter Wonderland initiative has been led by Patti Parker, the Town of Bel Air Director of Community and Public Relations, and it has had remarkable results for the Town. The members present agreed to send a letter of gratitude to Ms. Parker for her efforts with Winter Wonderland.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Milan moved and Ms. Close seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m. The motion carried.