

MINUTES
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
April 21, 2021

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. virtually via GoToMeeting (384508189).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristien Foss, Chair
Sandy Schlehr, Vice Chair
Carole Milan
Pat Fielder
Nicki Jergensen
Jessica Valis

IN ATTENDANCE: Angela Robertson, Economic Development Coordinator
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development
Donna Kahoe, Town Commissioner
Elizabeth Janney, *Bel Air Patch*
Catherine Butrim, Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2021

Ms. Milan moved and Ms. Schlehr seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting.

The motion carried.

FY21 Budget Review

Ms. Robertson reported that the balance in the public art account is \$0.00, and the balance in the marketing account is \$3,207.50, which should be spent before June 30, 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

American Legion Mural

Ms. Robertson reported that with CAC's donation, the American Legion was able to reach their initial goal of \$16,000.00 in funds raised. The mural committee recently met with Jack Pabis to coordinate preparations for the mural painting. Ms. Robertson reported that the Town has received the invoice for \$3,140.00. She advised that Mike Blum is on the mural committee at the Legion, and he will keep her informed about any plans for a dedication ceremony. Ms. Robertson advised that she will inform the CAC members when Jack Pabis begins painting the mural, which should be complete by the middle of June.

Plein Air Festival

Ms. Robertson reported that she spoke with Bob Willenbrink, executive director for the Maryland Center for the Arts. He advised that they are considering holding another event in Bel Air during the Plein Air Festival, which CAC could possibly sponsor using FY22 funds. Ms. Robertson will meet with Mr. Willenbrink on April 29.

Vertical Garden Update

Ms. Robertson reported that the Appearance and Beautification Committee (ABC) will be re-planting the vertical garden in Fred Ward Park. ABC is working with Planning and DPW to choose the type of vine that will thrive in the limited space. Ms. Robertson reported that DPW will arrange for the watering of the garden, and they feel that it should be planted in the next month.

Ms. Robertson reported that she informed ABC about Ms. Kahoe's suggestion to do a planting at the north wall of the Historical Society of Harford County.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chalk Art Event – Nicki Jergensen

Ms. Jergensen reported that Michael Kirby is an artist out of Baltimore and was an artist-in-residence at Bel Air High School. Mr. Kirby holds the Madonnari Arts Festival in Baltimore, which hosts chalk artists from around the world with students and adults from the surrounding area participating. Ms. Jergensen suggested that CAC speak with Mr. Kirby about hosting a similar event in Bel Air.

Ms. Robertson reported that she spoke with Mr. Kirby. The Madonnari Arts Festival has been held in Baltimore over the last seven years with over 20 schools participating. The event is held over three days with over 30,000 people attending. Ms. Robertson advised that she would forward information about Mr. Kirby's work to the CAC members.

The members present agreed that it would be a good idea to hold a chalk art event in Bel Air to take place in one day, preferably in the fall. Ms. Jergensen stated that she will contact Mr. Kirby to determine how much the event would cost and what CAC would need to do to coordinate the event. The members present discussed holding the chalk art event on Lee Street between Main and Bond Streets or on Burns Alley.

Wall Printer

Ms. Robertson reported that a Bel Air resident with a new wall printer technology business in Baltimore, D.C. and Virginia would like to showcase the wall printer in Bel Air to market it. The wall printer can take any digital image at any size and print it on an interior or exterior wall. Ms. Robertson displayed a video showing how the wall printer works. She advised that the printer would not work on the walls at Music Land or the restrooms at Rockfield Creative Playground because the blocks are textured at these locations.

Ms. Robertson advised that the business owner suggested placing the artwork on the exterior wall at Z Vault, and she has reached out to see if they are interested. The members present agreed that Z Vault would be the best location, but they also would like to see artwork on the wall on the back of the building across from the cafeteria at Bel Air High School. Ms. Schlehr suggested a mural depicting the old Bel Air High School.

Ms. Schlehr also suggested that there should be a continuation mural next to the Champions of Courage mural.

Fourth Quarter Project Planning

Ms. Jergensen reported that she attended a meeting for the new Alice Ann Park and suggested that the chain link fence behind the basketball hoop be replaced with something like a wood fence with a mural.

Ms. Robertson displayed two benches that Ms. Foss saw on Wayfair as possible benches for Alice Ann Park. Ms. Jergensen advised that there is a local woodworker who made the hightop tables at Independent Brewing who may be able to make benches for Alice Ann Park.

Ms. Kahoe suggested that the map murals shared by Ms. Valis might be placed inside the landings at the parking garage.

Ms. Robertson advised that the Town does not have salt boxes to paint, but Kevin Small suggested that CAC could have the picnic tables at Schlehr Pavilion and Rockfield Park painted. She advised that the picnic tables at Alice Ann Park will be replaced with composite tables. Ms. Valis advised that the picnic tables at Rockfield Park are in poor condition. Ms. Robertson advised that she will inform Kevin Small about the condition of the picnic tables and suggest replacing them with composite tables that could be painted by Harford Artists.

Ms. Schlehr advised that a friend of hers who lives in Bel Air had never seen the door sculpture. She suggested relocating the sculpture to a more visible location or adding a colorful garden around it.

Ms. Robertson reported that CAC has an opportunity to partner with the A&E District to create an interactive GIS map to make the Public Art Walk more technology- and visitor-friendly with more information about the individual artworks. She advised that the Town has contracted with a Baltimore-based firm, whose owner lives in Bel Air, to create GIS apps of the Farmers Market and the BBQ Bash.

Ms. Robertson displayed a GIS app of the Miami Valley Trail in Ohio. She advised that the GIS app for public art would include a map with dots to differentiate art on the Public Art Walk and other art works that are both inside and outside of the A&E District. Ms. Robertson advised that the viewer would hover over the dots on the large map to bring up information about each piece of work. Following that as you scroll down the website, you would see a map of that location, a photograph and more detailed information, including a description, about each piece of art.

Ms. Robertson advised that a QR code would be added to the paper version of the Public Art Walk to link the viewers to the interactive module on their phones. The app also would be a URL that people who are not physically present in Bel Air could scroll through on a desktop computer.

Ms. Robertson reported that the cost to create the GIS app would be \$4,500.00, which would be split between CAC and the A&E District. CAC would be responsible for paying \$2,250.00.

Ms. Fielder moved and Ms. Milan seconded the motion for CAC to provide \$2,250.00 toward the cost of creating a GIS app for public art in Bel Air in partnership with the A&E District.

The motion carried.

Ms. Robertson reported that with this initiative approved, the balance in the marketing budget will be \$957.50.

Ms. Robertson shared an example of a recycled plastic bike rack that hold 6-10 bikes to possibly be located at Harford Artists in Armory Marketplace. She advised that this rack would cost \$523.00 plus \$260.00 for shipping. Ms. Robertson advised that if CAC wished to purchase a bike rack at a lower cost, she would continue to look for other examples.

Ms. Fielder inquired if the Planning Department would purchase the bike rack from their budget. Ms. Heidenreich advised that the bike rack was requested by Armory Marketplace tenants and was not an item that was allocated for in the current Planning budget.

Ms. Robertson displayed a bench that Vagabond Sandwich Co. had installed, along with a Free Little Library and a pergola above their outdoor dining. She advised that this bench may be a good opportunity for a painting project. Ms. Milan suggested that CAC find out where this bench was purchased in order to place the same style of bench in other locations throughout the Town.

OTHER:

A&E District Update

Ms. Robertson reported that the redesignation application for the A&E District was submitted, and the Town should hear from the Secretary of Commerce within 60 days.

Ms. Robertson reported that the Strategic Plan is complete and will go before the A&E District Advisory Board for final approval on May 7. She advised that she will present the Strategic Plan to CAC in May.

Ms. Robertson reported that an application was submitted for a \$15,000.00 operating grant for events and marketing in the A&E District.

Ms. Robertson reported that Harford Artists Gallery will be hosting a series of Living History presentations at the Armory. They will take place on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The presentations by Colleen Webster will include Frida Kahlo, Georgia O'Keefe and Dorothy Parker. Harford Artists has invited the CAC members to attend free of charge. Ms. Robertson advised that she will send them flyer to the CAC members and requested that they R.S.V.P. in reply to that email.

Other

Ms. Robertson inquired if the members are comfortable meeting in person in May at Town Hall with social distancing and mask-wearing protocols in place. The members present agreed that they are comfortable meeting in person in May.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.