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MINUTES
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 7 pm
Coheco Room
33 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

Arts and Culture
Commission
Elaine Lauterborn
Amy Regan
Katie Hogan O'Connor,
Poet Laureate
Liz Tonkins-Agea
Matt Wyatt

Present

Elaine Lauterborn, City
Council Representative
Amy Reagan
Katie O'Conner
Liz Tonkins-Agea
Matt Wyatt

Absent

**(The minutes were
Approved XXX)**

Call to Order

Ms. Tonkins –Agea called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

I. Approval of minutes

None because there wasn't a quorum.

II. Welcome and current Commission Status

The Arts and Culture Commission went around and introduced themselves. Liz Tonkins-Agea is a supporter of the arts and volunteers for Granite State Choral Society. Matt Wyatt is the founder of the Museum of Fine Arts and works as Productions Manager for Rochester Opera House. Elaine Lauterborn is the City Council Representative for the Arts and Culture Commission. Katie O'Conner is Poet Laureate for the City. She is currently working on a poetry wall at the Community Center and a temporary wall Jetpack Comics. Amy Regan is a founder of the Museum of Fine Arts. Poet Laureate- Katie O'Conner explained that she is the Poet Laureate for a two year term. Her project is the poetry wall at the community center and a temporary wall that moves around town.

a. Who we are currently

The Arts and Culture Commission is made up of nine representatives of the community which include business, education of the arts, Poet Laureate. Ms. Lauterborn explained that there is currently five

positions filled and four openings for the Commission. Interested members of the community should fill out a statement of interest.

b. Arts Awards History and Recap

Mr. Wyatt explained the history of the arts awards and the importance of celebrating the arts annually in Rochester. There is a video on the City of Rochester page under the Government Channel on the awards event.

III. Rochester Commission Reboot Objectives

Grow committee members this is one of the goals because in order to vote on issues and move the group forward there needs to be sustainable membership. The Commission thanked all the folks that took time to come to the meeting to learn more. Serve as the on stop conduit to get city arts projects properly on track. Ms. Tonkins-Agea mentioned that other Arts Commission in the state serve as the one stop shop for all public art installations. Actively promote ALL arts organizations and projects public and private. Ms. Tonkins-Agea mentioned that we need to serve and actively promote all arts projects. Rochester has a ton of arts and culture happening and the Commission needs to serve as the point of contact of all arts in the community.

c. Engage the community

Mrs. Lauterborn explained the membership that makes up the Arts and Culture Commission the businesses, education of arts, and members actively engaged in arts and culture. This historically has been hard to recruit members to this commission.

VI. Report on other Area Commission models

Ms. Tonkins- Agea looked into how other Arts and Culture Commissions around the state operate. She spoke with the City of Dover and City of Portsmouth.

VII. Action Plan _ all

a. Get interested persons vetted to the committee

There was a discussion about creating an action plan for the City of Rochester Arts and Culture Commission. Mr. Wyatt stated he would like Rochester to be known as a destination for arts. Rochester has a strong arts community.

b. Vote in new slate of officers

Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Wyatt stated that he is interested in being the Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission again. There was a motion to elect Mr. Wyatt as Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission made by Ms. Tonkins-Agea and seconded by Mrs. Lauterborn.

c. Schedule a Strategic Plan meeting

Mrs. Mears handed out the Arts and Culture Strategic Plan that was completed in 2010.

VIII. Other business

Mr. Wyatt showed the Arts and Culture Commission the new website that the built for the Commission. The website can be found at <https://www.rochesterarts.info/>.

a. Mapping of historic buildings within Downtown

The Historic District Commission would like to partner with the Arts and Culture Commission regarding a historic walking tour in downtown.

b. Mural initiatives - get organizers to present to committee

There was a discussion about the two new murals downtown the Bennett Building and Charter Trust building. The City is working on a process for murals and adding a definition.

c. Other art (public, private) initiatives to promote (PorchFest, Museum activities, etc)

The members went around the room to discuss upcoming arts and culture events in the City of Rochester.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Lauterborn and seconded by Ms. O'Conner to adjourn at 8:40pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Mears
Senior Planner