



**Planning & Development Department  
City Hall Annex  
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Web Site: <https://www.rochesterarts.info/>**

**Arts and Culture Commission**

Matt Wyatt (Chair)  
Palana Belken  
Kris Ebbeson  
Jamie Kinsley  
Katie O'Connor, Poet Laureate  
Amy Marie Regan

**MINUTES**

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

Thursday May 27, 2021 at 7 pm  
City Hall Annex

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- I. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Chairman Wyatt  
II. **Roll Call**

Present

- a. Matt Wyatt (Chair)
- b. Kris Ebbeson
- c. Jamie Kinsley
- d. Katie O'Connor, Poet Laureate
- e. Amy Marie Regan
- f. Palana Belken
- g. Shanna B. Saunders – Staff

Absent

- a. Sarah Duclus

- III. **Approval of minutes January 14, 2021 & March 25 (No Meeting in April for lack of Quorum)** K. Ebbeson moves to approve. P. Belken seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- IV. **Updates to Art Walk** – M. Wyatt explains that the grant was in a bumpy place. City staff were not sure if they were able to meet the criteria, or the timeline. Staff had a great conversation with folks at the State Arts Council Office and were given extra time and less stringent criteria to follow.

For that reason, staff will be considering all the artists submitted by Commission Members for consideration and will reach out and request samples of their work.

Staff has already narrowed location options to 8:

1. Fire Station x 2
2. City Hall Loading dock doors x 2

3. Library x 2
4. Police Station
5. Jet Pack Comics
6. Possible sculpture Downtown

The Commission urged the Planning Director to make sure public art was part of the discussion with any downtown development. She agreed.

- V. **Art Show** – S. Saunders asked the Commission if they had ever considered holding an Art show? With our arts focus we could be the perfect venue. And it is not something that is currently offered in NH. Many Art shows in NH are art and Craft shows. S. Saunders mentioned Niantic CT and Mystic CT as examples. The Commissions liked the idea and thought about starting small by inviting artists to the Farmers Market. S. Saunders said she would look into it. Art in the Park. Perhaps even rotating pop-up art vendors at a pre-determined location with scheduling through us. There was discussion too about what sort of permits were needed from Rochester Hawkers and Peddlers to State permits.
- VI. **Art awards** – M. Wyatt discussed a possible August Ceremony. Partner with Main Street. The awards are in the process of being framed. The Mayor needs to sign them too.
- VII. **Other Business** – The Commission discussed Membership (there is one 1 slot and we can take alternates too).

The Poet Laureate nomination request is on the website. We have no nominations yet. Please pass the word. There was discussion about perhaps changing it to Artist Laureate. This may need to go to Council. K. Ebbeson made the motion to change it from Poet to Artist Laureate. K. O'Connor Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about holding the next meeting at the Museum. K. Ebbeson also mentioned her store could be a location. Folks wanted to keep meeting monthly.

- VIII. **Adjournment** – K. Ebbeson motioned to adjourn. K. O'Connor Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.