

City of Rochester Arts & Culture Commission
Wednesday February 16, 2022
Community Center Community Room
150 Wakefield Street

(These minutes were approved on April 20, 2022)

Members Present

Matt Wyatt, *Chair*
Ashley Desrochers
Kristin Ebbeson
Palana Hunt-Hawkins
Jamie Kinsley
Ed Pacht, *Poet Laureate*
Amy Marie Regan

Members Absent

Chloe White

Staff: Ashley Greene, *Planning Administrative Assistant II*

(There are the legal minutes of the meeting and are in the format of an overview of the meeting.)

I. Call to Order

Matt Wyatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A silent roll call was conducted by the recording secretary, Ashley Greene.

III. Membership

Mr. Wyatt discussed board membership issues and having trouble with having a quorum regularly. Mr. Wyatt stated that Sarah Duclos submitted a letter of resignation to be brought to City Council for approval. Mr. Wyatt stated that Chloe White has been appointed a regular member. Mr. Wyatt discussed sending out a calendar invite for the meetings going forward and asked that everyone put a reminder on their calendar for the meetings each month.

IV. Approval of minutes November 21, 2021

The minutes of November 21, 2021, have not yet been drafted. Amy Marie Regan will submit the minutes that she took to Ms. Greene to be drafted and reviewed for the next meeting.

V. 717 Columbus Ave, Irving Oil, Art Requirement, review submission

Mr. Wyatt discussed the art requirement for the new Irving Oil gas station located on the corner of Columbus Ave and Brock Street. Mr. Wyatt stated that the artist is located in Canada and the artist will be donating the original piece to the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts. Mr. Wyatt stated that the artist discussed having a ceremony when giving the piece to the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts and Mr. Wyatt agreed so long as they join the Chamber of Commerce. Ed Pacht offered an appropriate poem if a ceremony happens.

VI. Rochester Main Street – Central Square sculpture potential

No update at this time. Will be discussed at the next meeting.

VII. A&CC Budget

Mr. Wyatt discussed a new budget item potentially being added to the Planning Department for the Arts & Culture Commission, for a total of \$3,500. Mr. Wyatt discussed what the budget money could be used for should the Commission receive it. Mr. Wyatt discussed being able to consider a new location for the Awards Ceremony. Mr. Wyatt discussed possibly having extra funds for possibly a grant fund for public art projects, or to match a grant.

Ashley Desrochers discussed a project that Strafford Regional Planning Commission is running called CHAT Project. Ms. Desrochers stated that it is about what communities want within their community and Arts and Culture is an aspect of the project. Ms. Desrochers stated that SRPC is looking for four communities to pilot the project. Ms. Desrochers discussed someone from the City Staff should send an email expressing their interest in the project.

VIII. Priority items for 2022

a. Classes

Ms. Greene stated that in a prior meeting the pottery studio located in the Gonic Mills, called Mud City, was discussed, and working with this Commission for classes for the community.

b. Crosswalk

Mr. Wyatt discussed the possibility of encouraging our Department of Public Works to add some art designs to the crosswalks when it is time for them to be renewed. Mr. Wyatt stated that within the budget there may be money to purchase stencils. Mr. Wyatt suggested music notes in front of the Opera House.

c. Art Show/Farmers Market

Mr. Wyatt discussed adding some booths on the Farmer's Market to include the Arts & Culture within Rochester. Mr. Wyatt discussed possibly being able to raise money for the Commission or raise money for a charity of the commission's choice. Mr. Wyatt discussed coming up with an application for Art businesses to apply to have a booth within the farmer's market and doing a press

release. Mr. Wyatt discussed thinking about the ideal location for this to happen, whether it be with the farmer's market, or the Commission does it on their own.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Wyatt discussed moving the meeting to the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts.

Amy Regan made a motion to move the meeting to the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts. Kristin Ebbeson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Desrochers opposed.

Mr. Wyatt discussed moving the meeting to 6:00 p.m. coincide with other City meeting times.

Ms. Ebbeson made a motion to move the meeting to 6:00 p.m. Palana Hunt-Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pacht discussed an idea to put together a book of poems about Rochester. Mr. Pacht states that he has 23 years of poems about Rochester to go through and he is requesting assistance to put this book together. Ms. Ebbeson supports the idea. Mr. Wyatt discussed that it would be a great project for the Commission. My. Wyatt stated that whenever Mr. Pacht sends a poem, he puts it on the Rochester NH website under the Arts & Culture page. Ms. Desrochers asked if Mr. Pacht would consider adding illustrations and discussed that it can be inexpensive to print. Mr. Wyatt discussed assisting with editing over the next few meetings and help to choose which ones should go in the Rochester Book of Poems.

Mr. Pacht read a poem he wrote.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Desrochers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Ms. Hunt-Hawkins seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Greene
Administrative Assistant, II