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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 March 25, 2021 at 7 pm
Virtual Via Teams**

The Meeting was called to order by Pro Tem Chairman Matt Wyatt at 7:09.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Present

Matt Wyatt (Chair)
Kris Ebbeson
Jamie Kinsley
Katie O'Connor, Poet Laureate
Amy Marie Regan
Shanna B. Saunders - Staff

Absent

Palana Belken
Sarah Duclus

III. Approval of minutes January 14, 2021 – there was an issue with the minutes email and so approval was tabled to the April Meeting.

IV. Election of Officers - M. Wyatt reminded everyone that in January he had stepped down from Chair because of his new position with the City. The group had nominated and voted in S. Duclus as Chair. S. Duclus has declined the position, and in fact no re-upped her appointment to the A&CC. M. Wyatt let folks know he had legal counsel review City rules and there is no rule saying he CANT be chair. He really would like to step down though and asked if anyone else was interested. No one spoke up. Mat said he would be fine serving as Pro-tem Chair until another interested party stepped forward. P. Belken made a motion to have Matt Wyatt serve as Pro tem Chair, A. Regan seconded. Approved unanimously.

V. Virtual Art and Historic Map – M. Wyatt reviewed the new virtual Historic Map and virtual art map. He also explained the new “Destination Rochester” website. Mr. Wyatt

explained that to access the map you must scroll down to the bottom of the City's home page, and hit the "Virtual Historic Map" link under 'Quick links'. The link to the actual map is in the "Get Started" section.

The project is a Google Map project and you can either navigate from the pins on the map or by clicking the arrows under table of contents on the bottom left corner.

- VI. Updates to Art Walk** – This is the NH Arts Council funded grant. The first step is to ID locations. M. Wyatt and S. Saunders are working on that including getting property owner permission. The preferred medium will be the two- dimensional print to vinyl that has been used up at the Ridge. This medium is preferred because of the cost and the ease of install. In addition this install method allows for to disturbance to the structure which is important when it is a historic structure. There is an example of this medium on the www.rochestermfa.org website, under the "more" tab and the "public art projects" page. There are a number of photos there.

The next step is to find NH based artists. If any Commission member has any ideas please bring them to the next meeting we will discuss nominations and the possibility of putting a solicitation out.

- VII. Museum Expansion** – A. Regan explained that with the Tax office moving to the Community center the 2nd floor hallway became available to expand the Rochester Art Museum's collection. This expansion nearly doubles the size of the curated space. In addition the gallery is reopen and will be welcoming back Brian Keith Stephens for an exhibition this summer.

- VIII. Other Business** – K. Ebbeson let everyone know her Gallery is also reopen and he has a number of shows including Ann Vaughan, from S. Berwick starting March 31, Taintor Davis Child from Rollinsford in April, Rosanne Meserve & Friends from Dover in May, Eric Ebbeson from Hampton in June and the Greater Rochester Camera Club in July.

K. O'Connor explained that she had poet laureate funds left over from 2020, since the pandemic squashed the projects she had planned. She'd like to use them to publish an anthology of art and writing from local artists. She plans on providing print copies for contributors and also putting together an e-book that can be downloaded for free. She would like to put out a call for submissions. Everyone thought this was great and asked that it be a running agenda item.

- IX. Adjournment** - A. Regan moved P. Belken seconded. Passed unanimously.