

**City of Rochester Arts & Culture Commission**  
**Wednesday June 15, 2022**  
**Community Center Community Room**  
**150 Wakefield Street**

*(These minutes were approved on August 17, 2022)*

Members Present

Palana Hunt-Hawkins, *Chair*

Ashley Desrochers

Kristin Ebbeson

Ed Pacht, *Poet Laureate*

Amy Marie Regan

Matt Wyatt

Members Absent

Chloe White

Staff: Shanna B. Saunders, *Director of Planning & Development*

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

**I. Call to Order**

Palana Hunt-Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Shanna Saunders conducted a silent roll call.

**III. Membership**

Membership for the committee was discussed. Members Considered asking Art Teachers in Rochester to join and Joanne Piazzi, owner of Stitches.

**IV. Approval of minutes from October 28, 2021 and April 20, 2022**

*A motion was made by Matt Wyatt to approve the minutes from October 28, 2021 and April 20, 2022. Ashley Desrochers seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.*

**V. Nomination of Ed Pacht's Poems**

There were thirty-five poems voted on and Ed Pacht read one of this poems to the Commission. The Commission thought it would be best to not have any pictures in the book of poems due to the length. Ms. Hunt-Hawkins and Mr. Pacht will compile the poems, Mr. Pacht will think of the best

order to put the poems in & Ms. Hunt-Hawkins can help with formatting and layout. Mr. Wyatt explained that he would work on donating a book of the poems to the Library. Mr. Wyatt discussed doing a press release for the book and to also promote it at the Porch Fest in September. Amy Regan asked about the title of the book of poems and Mr. Pacht stated that he would think about a title.

## **VI. Nominations and Plans for the Rochester Art Awards**

Ms. Saunders explained that the Planning Department now has a budget for the Commission (starting July 1) and that she will bring the specifics to the next meeting.

Possible nominations for the Art Awards were discussed. The Commission discussed the location of the Art Awards, possibly the Opera House or the Governor's Inn Perhaps holding it on a Monday. Kris Ebbeson offered to frame the awards. The need for MCs for the Art Awards was also discussed.

Mr. Wyatt reminded the Commission that the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts has the Durst Wall that has an open exhibit policy and the Commission can give nominations for the wall.

## **VII. Update on Irving Oil Mural**

The mural is currently on the second floor of the library. Discussed including a caption for the mural. The Commission agreed to make the mural a limited edition signed by the artist. The mural will be sent back to the artist in Canada for a signature and mailed back to us once completed. The size of the mural was discussed.

## **VIII. Other Business**

Ms. Ebbeson discussed the current exhibit at her shop, Ron St. Jean, and Diane. In July it will be a group show for the Rochester Camera Club. Tom Ebbeson will be exhibiting in August with the History of LGBTQ.

Mr. Wyatt discussed that Rochester Main Street has \$5,000 to do more murals. Ms. Saunders offered to do the permits required by the City. Ms. Desrochers discussed Strafford Regional Planning Commissions Healthy Aging project, which has some grant option proposals available.

Mr. Wyatt explained that the Art Museum will be open the first Saturday of the Month starting in August. RMFA has recently revised their website.

Mr. Pacht mentioned the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New England College Covered Bridge and that he has some poems about them. Discussed doing a shout out about Rochester and how there is a poet laureate position

## **IX. Adjournment**

Mr. Wyatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7: 20 p.m. Ms. Desrochers seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ashley Greene,*  
Administrative Assistant II

*and*

*Shanna B. Saunders,*  
Director of Planning & Development