



LIBERTY
ARTS COMMISSION
LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
September 10, 2020
11:30 am

Zoom Video Conference or at City Hall, Admin Conference Room on 2nd Floor

Commissioners will be sent individual Zoom links to this meeting. If you are a member of the public and are interested in speaking at the virtual meeting, please send a written request by Noon on September 9, 2020 to PublicComment@libertymo.gov. Please direct questions Jeanine Thill at jthill@libertymo.gov or call 816-439-4537

Attendance: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Katie McDonald, Shane Immelt, Heather Jones, Anna Knackstedt, Aaron Money, Amy Steinbeck, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman, Phil Young

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| I. Approval of Meeting Summary: | August 13, 2020 |
| II. Current Business | |
| Wall of Love Update | Amy Steinbeck |
| Sculptures Update | Staff |
| III. Other Business | |
| Art Partner Reports: | |
| Liberty Arts Foundation | Greg/Heather/Shane |
| Library | Katie |
| William Jewell | Nathan |
| Corbin Theatre | Bill |
| Norterre | Amy |
| Liberty Public Schools | Aaron |
| Old Business: | |
| IV. Adjournment | |

Next Meeting Date October 8, 2020
11:30 via Zoom

An ADA accessible entrance is available from Missouri Street at the Police Department entrance. An Elevator will provide access to the third floor for meetings in the Third Floor Conference Room.

Liberty Arts Commission Meeting Summary

August 13, 2020

11:30 pm Via Zoom Conference & Admin Conference Room

Present via Zoom Conference were Commissioners: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Heather Jones, Anna Knackstedt, Aaron Money, Katie McDonald, Bill Stilfield and Phil Young

Absent: Aaron Money

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill - Community Development Manager and Claire Rodgers – Marketing & Special Events Supervisor

Guests: Harold Phillips, Shelton Ponder and Steve Rhodes

The Zoom conference meeting (due to the Covid-19 Pandemic) was called to order by Chairman Immelt at 11:32 pm

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the meeting summary from the July 9, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stilfield. The motion passed 8-0-1. Commissioner Steinbeck abstained due to absence at the last meeting.

Commissioner Garrette Brown introduced himself to the group as a newly appointed Commission member. He grew up in Liberty public schools and is currently a teacher at Epic elementary. He is excited to be a part of the decision making process for art in our community. All the other Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed Commissioner Brown.

Current Business

Guest Presentation- African American Legacy Memorial- Harold Phillips, Steve Rhodes & Shelton Ponder gave an update on the African American Legacy Memorial to honor those buried in Fairview and New Home Cemetery. Council member Phillips and Shelton Ponder explained that in 1821 Missouri became a state and Liberty was settled in 1822 and became a City in 1829. The goal is to construct a memorial in conjunction with Missouri's bi-centennial. Shelton's family has been in Liberty for 200 years. The group would like to commemorate the unmarked burial plots. Several people are working on the research in an effort to find the names of some of those people. Steve Rhodes outlined the planned phases of the project. He explained that planning started in February. Several people have been doing research and they have estimated that there are up to 400 people buried there with unmarked graves. Their committee and the City partnered to do ground penetrating radar and those results were recently received. The results are a piece of the puzzle and the information is open to interpretation. As a second step they are talking about marking the perimeter which is near the creek. They have talked about designating it with some type of marker, perhaps a steel post to mark the area. The third phase would be some sort of interpretive sign so people can understand what those markers mean. The fourth option is some sort of a walkway into the space that will have story stones to tell the stories of those buried there. They have also discussed placing benches in the area. The fifth option is something that gives recognition to those names that they know of. They are considering some type of wall or monument to list those names. A brick paver donor plaza has also been discussed. It is a layered process. There has been a lot

of talk about artwork, possibly sculpture or murals and connecting it to the square in some fashion. A local artist asked if there are guidelines for the project. Cecelia Robinson has also reached out to another artist that could do sculpture. Councilman Duncan asked what the application for a mural might be. Mr. Rhodes said that many things have been discussed such as at Garrison School or elsewhere. The artist is open to the idea of having artwork available to create items that can be sold for fundraisers such as coasters or other items. Commissioner Young asked for clarification on how our cemetery system works. He said he hopes that there are clear boundaries and property management of the area. Councilman Phillips said that Tom Garland, Asst. Parks Director, is meeting with their group and he works with the cemetery board. If something artistic is discussed or proposed then they will come before the Arts Commission. Mr. Rhodes asked if the Arts Commission has guidelines of things that we will fund or not fund. Councilmember Duncan said that the grant application outlines pretty clearly what type of projects are eligible for grant funding, although there are no longer funds in that line item for grants due to the limited budget as a result of decreased bed tax revenues. Chairman Immelt asked about the time line for the project. Councilman Phillips said ideally Aug. of 2021. A lot will depend on the funding to make the phases happen. It would be nice to tie it in with the bicentennial of 2022. Duncan said the Art Grant program seems logical however there are no funds available and the funds we do have are already allocated. We have the perfect mechanism but the timing of the project and the situation with the situation in the world (COVID) makes it difficult. The application for the art grant spells out very clearly what is required to earn a grant. The other resource that might be helpful would be the guidelines. Benches and signage are not in the purview of this group. Maybe a more formal connection could be in place with a liaison. Commissioner Jones said she wondered what role the Arts Commission plays and how might the grant fit in. If it is public art, there are criteria in place. Another entity that might be able to help with funding is the Liberty Art Foundation, which was set up pre bed tax. She encouraged the group talk to the Foundation about possible funding. Councilman Duncan said that the Foundation's primary role is to do fundraising and to have a place (a 501c3) for the money. Councilman Phillips thanked the group for their time. He added that there is almost a providential opportunity here and great synergy. Chairman Immelt asked them to keep the Arts Commission in the loop as they continue to plan. Council member McDonald expressed her support for the project and said she looks forward to more information.

Wall of Love idea- Staff explained that an email was sent to the group about a month ago with details of this idea that came from Charles Small and HDLI. After further thought they decided not to do the project but offered for the Arts Commission to take it on. Staff expressed some concerns about taking on a project with limited resources and that is not part of the Commissions plans for the year but said it is the decision of the Commission if someone wants to spearhead the project. Commissioner Steinbeck volunteered to coordinate it with assistance. Commissioner Wyman said the president of the art club at William Jewell may be interested in helping. Commissioner Brown said he will talk to Commissioner Money about possibly involving LPS students and Commissioner McDonald said that the new Library might be interested in participating in conjunction with the grand opening of the new Library in Liberty. The local newspaper should be involved too.

Sculptures- Ms. Thill said that the artists that didn't extend their contracts will be picking up their pieces the first week of September. The two new sculptures will be

installed on September 11 at 11 am and on September 16 at a time to be determined. Staff asked for ideas of how we can create some publicity other than inviting the newspaper to the installations. Chairman Immelt suggested live Facebook events for when artists are installing, he will help make this possible. Staff said that she will work with Claire in PR on a press release encouraging people to visit Liberty once the new sculptures are installed.

Art Partner Reports:

Liberty Arts Foundation- Commissioner Jones reported that the Foundation received \$17.81 from Walt's Coffee orders.

William Jewell- Commissioner Wyman said the college is going face to face, opening for classes and will be moving students into the dorms in about two weeks. They are hopeful everyone will follow the rules and regulations as it relates to social distancing. The college will be closed to off campus visitors therefore the Stocksdale gallery will postpone exhibits, as there will not be any public gatherings. The theatre department had scheduled to do a large cast play in November but they had to cancel it. Instead they are doing a multi-media lights production of 1984 by George Orwell. They will do 2-3 performances per night for those on campus to attend and they may stream it.

Corbin Theatre- Commissioner Stilfield said they are still dark except they did have a theatrical performance at Belvoir Winery, where they could have social distancing. He doesn't know if they will do any more theatrical performances this year. Shawn Garland contacted them about her new building on Main but to bring it up to code it would be an additional \$55,000. They are trying to decide now what to do for the rest of the year. They had a quartet video done to try to keep the audience interested.

Norterre- No Report

LPS- No Report

The Library- Commissioner McDonald said they do have a video tour of the new building. Even when they open it will be for curbside.

New Business

The jury committee for Exhibits in 2021 will be Amy Steinbeck, Nathan and possibly Carol Kariotis. Staff will share with them any applications from artists and ask for their input. In the next month or so the City will start promoting that we are accepting applications.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Young the motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Next Meeting: 11:30 Via Zoom on Thursday, September 10th