



**LIBERTY**  
ARTS COMMISSION  
**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**October 14, 2021**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Katie McDonald, Anna Knackstedt, Heather Jones, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman

Absent: Aaron Money, Amy Steinbeck

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Immelt.

Commissioner Stilfield made a motion to approve the September 9, 2021 Meeting Summary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman. The motion passed 7-0-0.

### **Current Business**

#### *Feral Giraffes* Sculptures

- Staff explained that the *Feral Giraffes*, three sculptures that will be placed in Ruth Moore Park, were donated to the City from John and Laura Canuteson via a cash donation to the Liberty Arts Foundation.
- The City in turn purchased the sculptures from the artist, Joe Forrest Sackett, in the amount of \$15,000.
- The pads will be poured and the sculptures installed as soon as the Parks department can work it into their schedule, likely in the next few weeks.

#### Arts Organizations List

- Chairman Immelt said he spoke to Vern Windsor about an effort to publicize Art Deserts.
- Mr. Windsor and others are working to catalog art in the area. They may ask for the Arts Commission's help in the future to put such a list together.
- Chairman Immelt will report on it when he gets more information.

#### Art Grants

- Staff suggested that the Commission evaluate the Art Grants and how we can increase the awareness and use of them.
- It was suggested that we consider paid ads on Facebook or put posters up in galleries.
- Councilman Duncan asked if we have any idea if people were interested but didn't apply.
- Commissioner McDonald asked if we could give examples of things that have been approved in the past.

- Commissioner Jones asked if we should spread the word at the Art Institute or other organizations where artists would be located. There may be other ways that we can get in front of them and those likely to apply for an art grant.
- Councilman Duncan said he believes that the first 3-6 months of this year being in the pandemic is a factor. It is an important point that Covid was an issue.
- The Commission agrees but acknowledged that the lack of applications was an issue before that window.
- The City has a public relations staff that can help.
- Staff asked for feedback about the application form and if anything should be changed on them to make them easier or less intimidating to fill out.
- Commissioner McDonald said she felt like more of the information is important for us to do our due diligence to make a good decision. It could be helpful to make it a fillable form.
- Staff will ask for the web presence to be better and look at the grant application to make sure that it doesn't require a fax.
- It was suggested that we ask for testimonials from previous grant recipients.
- Stilfield said we could be more proactive in individually spreading awareness about the grants that are available. Commission members could encourage organizations and individuals to apply. Organizations, such as Corbin Mill, The Arts Foundation, and individuals need to be reminded. Having a listing of past recipients would be helpful. For example, the Second Baptist Church got a grant to help fund their permanent sculpture.

#### 2022 Transient Guest Tax Budget

- It was suggested that we look at the 2019 budgeted numbers to decide if we want anything to change in the numbers for 2022.
- Staff will get clarification on the budget request process for this year. The Arts Commission should be able to make a budget request. The commission may want to strike or add line items in the 2022 budget. It should be an annual ask.
- Councilman Duncan asked if the insurance covers those that we acquired – we pay for it the same way we got it for the insurance. We need to be clear on what funds are being expensed to the General Fund and which are being expensed to the Transient Guest Tax Fund. The City has to think about the maintenance and insurance on the *Great Americans* also.
- Commissioner Jones said maybe there should be a designated line item in the General Fund for sculpture maintenance for items not paid for by the Transient Guest Tax Fund.

#### 2021 Forecasted Budget Balances

- Staff explained that there are still expenses that are not reflected in the handout showing the forecasted budget.
- The commission agreed that we use the remaining funds for the sculpture maintenance and enhancement of the sculptures of the existing inventory.
- The commission agreed that the maintenance of *The Other Extreme* should be a priority. If it is a student project, then we can involve them, if the price is too high for us to hire Zahner or another company to fix the damaged sculpture.
- Staff will send the Commission the updated spreadsheet of all the public art.

## Art Partner Reports

- a. Liberty Arts Foundation - Bob Steinkamp did a great job of representing the Arts Foundation at City Council. He is the former Mayor that instituted this commission.
- b. Library - No Report
- c. William Jewell – Schedule below

### **OCTOBER 2021**

Sunday, Oct. 24

Speeches presented by Jewell Theatre

3 p.m. - Yates-Gill College Union: Rooms 221/222, Atrium, Yates Dining Hall (main level)

Cardinalis Concert

4 p.m. - Gano Chapel

Tickets: \$5 general admission; \$3 student with ID. (Tickets will be limited and masks are required.) You can purchase tickets by QR code located on posters, [footnotestoahistory.brownpapertickets.com/](http://footnotestoahistory.brownpapertickets.com/) or email [JewellChoirs@william.jewell.edu](mailto:JewellChoirs@william.jewell.edu) to reserve a ticket.

### **NOVEMBER 2021**

Thursday, Nov. 4

Friday, Nov. 5

Saturday, Nov. 6

Fall Play: "The Learned Ladies" by Moliere, translated and adapted by Freyda Thomas

7 p.m. - Peters Theater, Brown Hall

General Admission \$10

Saturday, Nov. 6

Scholarship Auditions

Pillsbury Music Center

Sunday, Nov. 7

Fall Play: "The Learned Ladies" by Moliere, translated and adapted by Freyda Thomas

2 p.m. - Peters Theater, Brown Hall

General Admission \$10

Saturday, Nov 13

We Are The Change, Susan Ferguson, Eco-Art exhibition Stocksdale Gallery

opening reception will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13

Artist Talk on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 14

Fall Choir Concert

7:30 p.m. - Gano Chapel

- d. Corbin Theatre - Commissioner Stilfield reported that a ribbon cutting for the new location took place last month. They have two more performance this month: Troy Wolfmyer and Saturday is Andre and Jason Pope. Those are the only performances for the month. Stilfield encouraged people to come and check out the new location at Garrison.
- e. Liberty Public Schools - Commissioner Brown said most schools have performances in production. They have made accommodations for Covid. They are close to normal capacity.

## Other Business

- ❖ Music Downtown, Harold Phillips
  - Mr. Phillips handed out a sheet about the music he would like to have in preparation for a memorial for his daughter, a carillon inspired by a trip to Europe.
  - His vision is to have music everywhere, throughout downtown Liberty; from William Jewell College to Heritage Middle School.
  - It could play music from hymns to stars and stripes forever, as well as seasonal music.
  - Johnstontown, PA installed a similar music system in their community. The cost is about \$15,000 which would include the speakers, a laptop etc.
  - Commissioner Stilfield said there may be some ongoing expenses, but you can buy CDs for this that would have the licensing. Westport used to do something like this.
  - Commissioner Wyman said the one at the college has a catalogue of 7000 songs that are played. Every day at noon it plays a different song.
  - Mr. Phillips talked to HDLI's Board and Design committee.
  - Councilman Duncan said it is a cool idea.
  - Commissioner Stilfield said if most of the Commission likes the idea, then they can look further into the details.
  - Commissioner Knackstedt suggested they could consider applying for an art grant.
  - Mr. Phillips said someone needs to own it, and maintain it.
  - The Commission likes the idea. Councilman Duncan said it is truly unique and a signature type of project. Stilfield commented that it would make an impact on visitors.
- ❖ Social Media
  - Chairman Immelt reported that the City's Public Relations department has suggested a social media post about the arts a few times a month.
  - It was discussed that it would be helpful if Commission members could send suggested content for social media post to Ms. Thill.
  - It was the consensus that Commission members would be happy to do this. We can post art grants too.
  - Commissioner McDonald suggested that we fill out a calendar of topics on a spreadsheet of things to post.
  - Staff will draft a schedule and the Commission will fill in.
- ❖ Staff will ask Claire in Public Relations about the timing for the request for the 2022 Transient Guest Tax budget.

- ❖ Councilman Duncan suggested that our next meeting be in person at the new Library. Commissioner McDonald will book a room for our next meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Liberty Branch.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.