



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
September 8, 2022
6:00 p.m.
3rd Floor Conference Room**

Present: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Molly Hon, Shane Immelt, Anna Knackstedt, Katie McDonald, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman

Public Attendee: Karley Schieder is interested in volunteering, she lives on Pine Street.

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairwoman McDonald.

Commissioner Immelt made a motion to approve the August 11, 2022 Meeting Summary as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stilfield. The motion passed 7-0-1. Councilman Duncan abstained.

Current Business

Sculptures Updates:

- Staff reported that most of the rotating sculptures have been removed and the installations will be done by Fall Fest.
- Staff shared the schedules and a flyer that will be available for handouts at Fall Festival by HDLI.
- The group agreed that we would not have a booth at Fall Festival this year.

Transient Guest Tax (TGT) Committee Report:

- Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt reported that they recently met and brainstormed ideas on how to spend down the fund balance, which is much higher than anticipated, approximately \$300,000.
- Starting in 2023 they are going to bump the anticipated revenue by \$100,000.
- We might want to brainstorm more for the one-time expenditures.
 - A LED lighting system for downtown was proposed as a one-time expense to the Tourism Committee, they agreed that might be a good project.
 - They also considered adding sign holders for banners along the Hwy 152 corridor, potentially going up toward Jewell.
- No one seemed to have an issue with the Arts Commission request for funds for rebranding. Nothing was voted on.

- Other one-time expenses that were discussed included murals along Kansas Street on the retaining walls.
 - Art to welcome people to Liberty is a good idea, finding the perfect thing that would be appropriate would be important.
 - Councilman Duncan said if there is some traction for it, then the Arts Commission should be involved.
- A 'Welcome to Liberty' gateway sign was something that was brought up for Hwy 152 as you come into Liberty.
- The TGT committee asked if there would be any interest in sculptures at the entry ways into town.
- Councilman Duncan said we could talk about commissioning a piece tailored to a site.
 - It might be cool to commission a permanent piece to have in the City Hall atrium after the new roof is put on.
- Commissioner Brown said back to the mural idea, the retaining walls have a rough brick.
 - Commissioner Immelt said some places put a paneling up on a retaining wall to address the texture challenge.
- An intentional 'Welcome to Liberty' sign or a mural may be a way to engage students to submit ideas. We could pick a message and find something that everyone could get behind.
 - Chairwoman McDonald said we do a call for artist that is specific to that. Something abstract that could have multiple meetings might be something to consider.
 - Commissioner Wyman said he was thinking something metal with light that is back-lit. Albuquerque has metal art on bridge ways that is very striking, that is something else to think about.
- Other annual things the TGT Committee discussed included potentially enhancing what the Chamber of Commerce does with the local gift card promotions. Other tourist destinations that need additional funding are the Jesse James Bank Museum, Garrison School, Clay County Museum and the Liberty Performing Arts Theatre (LPAT).
 - Some of the feedback they got from Geofencing was from the LPAT. The hotel manager on the committee said that the LPAT draws people to stay in hotels.
 - Councilman Duncan reminded the group that the funding is possible because the voters of Liberty passed the Transient Guest Tax.

Grant Guidelines:

- Chairwoman McDonald asked the group look at the Art Grant guidelines from the artist's standpoint and be prepared to discuss at our next meeting how they can be clarified or improved.
- At the October meeting we will discuss and in November we can make some decisions. The grant committee includes Commissioners Immelt, Wyman, and Hon and Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt.
- Commissioner Immelt said we might want to establish a YouTube channel; we could do a 'How to Apply for Grants' video on the YouTube channel.

Other Business

Art Partner Reports

Clay County is celebrating their bicentennial this year and “Clay” is the mascot. They are doing a photo contest to celebrate. Chairwoman McDonald shared a flyer with more details and encouraged anyone interested in learning more to contact Clay County.

- a. Liberty Arts Foundation – Commissioner Immelt reported that the Foundation met and they talked at length about the Caroline Project that Harold and Gwen Phillips are working on for the downtown area in honor of their daughter. After a lot of good conversation, the Foundation recommended that Harold set up their own 501c3. The Foundation agreed that they would hold money until there was a 501c3 established. Harold decided to repurpose the 501c3 for the Caroline Project. The other agenda item was discussing what other projects they might take on. They do need additional foundation members.
- b. Library - Chairwoman McDonald said they have a new assistant at the library.

Vice Chairwoman Knackstedt mentioned that we still have \$1,700 remaining in the budget line item for the gallery spaces. The group agreed that these funds could be used for an ad in KC Studio Magazine or for helping with ‘meet the artist’ open house expenses. Councilman Duncan commented that as long as we are using it to better the gallery experience, that would be an appropriate expenditure. Staff will ask Claire Rodgers in the City’s Public Relations Department if they will create a brochure to promote the public gallery spaces.

- c. William Jewell - Commissioner Wyman reported that Lish Hoerman will have a gallery show with graphic novels on October 15th. The opening reception will be on October 12th.
- d. Corbin Theatre - Commissioner Stilfield reported that on Aug 12th and 13th, Mame Paris did a workshop and they had a total limit of 24 students. It was one of the biggest successes in terms of revenue. Next year they will do something with Jewell students. He thanked the Commission for the grant. David Brandon is a saxophone player that will be performing October 7th. He has worked with Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra. They will be holding a gala at Belvoir on October 13th and tickets are \$60 each.

Due to the scheduling conflict with the next LAC meeting, the group agreed to move our October meeting to the 12th. We will move the next LAC meeting to Wednesday, October 12th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the third-floor conference room. The group agreed that all future meetings will be held in this location, for better collaboration.

- e. Liberty Public Schools - Commissioner Brown reported that he is now working for EDGE at the high school. He is teaching Global Creations, expressing solutions through art - things like murals in the community. This is about challenging the students to think about how they can change the world or speak to how we change the world; things that are injustices to them that they would like to address through art.

Councilman Duncan said that the developers of Montage have indicated that Public Art might be part of their proposed development. After a recent Council meeting where he brought up the importance of art in the community, the developers added the following sentence to their Guiding Principles on their website “Art in all its forms will be displayed, presented, produced, performed, shared, enjoyed, and encouraged.”

Other Business

Commissioner Wyman brought up the KC Studio Magazine listings of art galleries. If that is something that the group would be interested in, then we should look into that. There are different sizes of listing. Staff will reach out to KC Studio about the prices.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.