

MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION
MARCH 10, 2022 -6:30 PM
THE HAWK FARMINGTON HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER
BLACKBOX THEATRE, RM 148
29995 TWELVE MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48334
(248) 699-6712 www.fhgov.com

CALLED TO ORDER BY: Chair Ferencz AT: TIME 6:32

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Blau, Lesa Ferencz, Lindsay Janoch, Jeff Dutka, Cindy Carleton, Sean Deason, Ted Hadfield, Celeste McDermott, Claire Perko

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Rachel Timlin, Cultural Arts Supervisor/Staff Liaison
Johnna Balk, Farmington City Council Liaison
Nora Mason, Potential Future Arts Commissioner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Chair Ferencz support by Commissioner Carleton to approve the agenda without amendments.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

APPROVAL OF February 10, 2022 MINUTES:

Motion by Chair Ferencz support by Commissioner Carleton to approve the agenda with amendments.

Amendments: Under Public Art, switch Councilwoman Boleware and Councilwoman Balk in notes

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Koeppe, Cultural Arts Coordinator, was introduced to the Arts Commission.

CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION REPORT

- Public Art Reception was the evening of Friday, March 4th with about 300 people in attendance.
- Blackthorn Concert was the following Saturday, March 5th in our mainstage theater. Some minor sound and staging issues, but the Cultural Arts team is working to resolve these issues.
- Commissioner volunteers are needed for upcoming concert series.
- Art and dance classes have had 696 participants to date.
- Dance classes have moved from recreation division to cultural arts with a huge increase in participation and new teachers. Bollywood Fusion and Afro-Movement classes have been added.
- Sensory-friendly programming and program support is in progress for the upcoming season.
- Art camps already have 270 students enrolled.

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Mural Project: Guidelines/Ordinance Development**
Commission will wait until Councilwoman Boleware returns with an update.

COMMISSION FOCUSED 2022 PROJECTS

- **Farmington City Hall Art**
Chair Ferencz noted that the sub-committee is working on selecting art with support materials provided by the Cultural Arts department and they have narrowed the choices down to about 50. She has remeasured walls and will make a diagram to clarify. Another meeting is planned to narrow down the choices and clarify spacing, the sub-committee will then research the availability of the preferred pieces. Commissioner Hadfield is working to connect with Farmington City Hall regarding a small reconfiguration of the space. Original goal was to hang art by month's end. Commissioner Blau suggested connecting the opening of the new exhibition to the upcoming Art on the Grand. Commission debated possibly delaying the installation. Condition of the walls, when the current installation is removed, is an unknown variable, as is the eventual home of the current wall hangings.
- **Vacant Grand River Storefront Art**
No Update
- **Tree Sculpture Update**
Commissioner Hadfield met with a representative from NTG Enterprises regarding project completion including concrete pouring, extra scrap materials, welding, etc. Structural engineering support is also available from the company. Commissioner Hadfield is awaiting a cost estimate from the company.
- **Mary Brooks Exhibit**
Chair Ferencz reminded the commission that the artwork from the estate of Mary Brooks still presents an opportunity for exhibition within the city. The artwork is on paper and unframed so there are challenges to protect and display the work for exhibition. Chair Ferencz requested that the commission consider this for commission-focused project in 2022. Discussion was had about funding sources and it was stated that the commission still has \$800 to be spent before the end of the fiscal year. Suggestions were made to exhibit some of the art within our existing display cases. Commissioner Hadfield suggested that we choose a few for framing that could be displayed at the Hawk. Commissioner Carleton suggested a new framer that may be willing to work with us as cost is a consideration. The Commission agreed to move forward with this project.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Carleton noted that there are vacant commissioner seats for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills to be filled. She suggested that we gather information regarding the current commissioners' skills and areas of expertise and use this information to identify gaps in our knowledge and experience. She is willing to collect and refine the data and requests that each commissioner send her a brief summary of their areas of strength and experience. Commissioner Janoch mentioned that we should also consider the areas of the arts that are represented by commissioners. All agreed that diversity in many areas would create a strong, well-rounded commission. Discussion was had regarding liaisons from the Mayor's Youth Council.
- Commissioner Carleton noted that CARES was looking to make their space more welcoming and that we should begin a conversation about art installation in that space.
- Commissioner Blau shared a thank-you note from former liaison to Farmington City Council, Councilwoman Maria Taylor.

- Commissioner McDermott shared congratulations to the Cultural Arts division for an outstanding public art exhibition.
- Commissioner McDermott stated that she was inspired to reinvigorate the “Write On” project and requested support from the commission. There is a possibility of adding this to the May agenda.
- Commissioner Hadfield provided a brief update to the pedestal project. He is requesting the text for the plaque including a tribute and names to be engraved.
- Commissioner Hadfield also shared his desire that the commission would strive to support KickstART Farmington’s exhibitions and exhibit openings with stronger attendance. Discussion was had regarding the timing of those openings with regard to other activities in Farmington and Farmington Hills. A suggestion was made to try to coordinate these activities with other events. Commissioner Janoch will take this discussion to the KickstART board for consideration.
- Commissioner Blau shared a game she has created for her students to aid in Renaissance and Age of Enlightenment learning.

LIASON COMMENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 14, 2022

Location: The Hawk, 29995 Twelve Mile Rd

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by: Chair Ferencz

Time: 8:07 PM

Minutes drafted by: Lindsay Janoch