

MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION
October 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM
FARMINGTON CITY HALL
23600 LIBERTY STREET
FARMINGTON, MI 48335
(248) 699-6712 www.fhgov.com

CALLED TO ORDER BY: Chair Ferencz AT: 6:42 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Blau, Lesa Ferencz, Lindsay Janoch, Celeste McDermott, Claire Perko, Ted Hadfield, Donald Fritz, Jeff Dutka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cindy Carleton, Sean Deason, Nora Mason

OTHERS PRESENT: Rachel Timlin, Cultural Arts Supervisor/Staff Liaison
Bree Schwartz, Farmington Resident

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

APPROVAL OF September 8, 2022 MINUTES:

by Commissioner Janoch to amend the Sept 2022 minutes under the “Next Meeting Date” to read “October 13, 2022” instead of “October 13, 2021” with support by Commissioner McDermott.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Welcome to potential incoming new arts commissioner Bree Schwartz.

CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION REPORT

Cultural Arts Supervisor Rachel Timlin distributed a packet of creative and performing arts programming. Thanks to all that attended the Sept 13 Makerspace Ribbon Cutting. Makerspace class offerings are on the website. Thanks to all that have attended Sept and Oct Cultural Arts events. DSO performance was a full house and successful evening. Drag Queen Bingo was successful and will hopefully be repeated. How to Be Funny 101 with Mark Boyd was a great event. Stephen Mack Jones / Neal Rubin event last weekend also went well. Planet D Nonet, Chamber Soloists and Whiskey Charmers also went well. Tonight, there is a jazz concert in the Blackbox Theatre. Indian musical and theatre event is coming this Saturday evening at 7:30 PM. Antiques Twelve Mile Road Show coming to the Blackbox Theatre this Sunday evening at 7 PM. Nancy Coumoundouros is exhibiting in City Hall with an opening reception on Friday, October 21. More concerts and special events coming including Ara Topouzian, Michigan Maker’s Market, Farmington Hills Youth Theatre. DIA Inside-Out is coming down in November.

Rachel asked for input from commissioners regarding the programming with regard to low attendance at Sept/Oct Cultural Arts events...

Chair Ferencz encouraged other commissioners to volunteer for concerts and events. She also commented that attending the Makerspace opening was exciting and informative and she encouraged other commissioners to attend events and share

in that same excitement. She also shared that Drag Queen Bingo was a fun, family-friendly and a great community event. There were a few ticketing issues that Cultural Arts is working to resolve.

Commissioner McDermott noted the broad community in attendance for the DSO performance. She noted that people attend the events that interest them or that they would like to experience. She encouraged Cultural Arts to keep up the momentum with broad and inclusive programming.

Ms. Schwartz noted that she believes people are hesitant to pay more than \$10 for tickets and believes families are looking for free events. Also, she feels that some of the events are advertised too late for families through the school system. She also noted that increased concession offerings, child care and special needs care would appeal to families. Her family enjoyed Quiet Fest last week at the Hawk. She noted that improvements could be made regarding a welcoming atmosphere in the space.

Commissioner Hadfield noted that the building, with changes, is still unfamiliar to many. More signage could be added that is engaging, elegant and welcoming.

Commissioner Dutka inquired about social media and paid advertising for targeted markets. He mentioned that it doesn't seem to appear on his feed. He suggested working to target advertising to specific groups that are already interested in the types of activities already occurring.

Commissioner Fritz commented that it takes time for a place like this to become an institution and that there are also people in the community who are still upset about the loss of Harrison High School. He mentioned that signage could be moved.

Commissioner Perko noted that the traffic patterns through the space could be improved. She noted that signage could also be improved.

Commissioner Blau shared that she regularly tells people about the community center and that many people are still unfamiliar with the space. She also has encouraged people to reach out about holding reunions in the space.

Discussion ensued about the possible ramifications of reduced attendance at events and concerts as we go forward with programming and the usage of space at The Hawk.

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMISSION FOCUSED 2022 PROJECTS

Farmington City Hall Art

Chair Ferencz asked Commissioner Blau to reach out to City Manager Dave Murphy to restart the communication process regarding the Farmington City Hall art installation. Commission wants to be certain that the city of Farmington understands their commitment to the artists and process as this program moves forward. We as a commission can help to facilitate that process.

Tree Sculpture Exhibit

Commissioner Hadfield gave a brief history of the tree sculpture project. The tree has now been erected and welded in place at the Hawk as of this morning. It is about 25 feet high. More will be added to it in the spring. The story and pictures should be shared on social media.

Commissioner McDermott mentioned that a bench and plaque could be added.

Motion by Commissioner McDermott to reserve \$1000.00 toward the completion of this project including the bench, plaque, lighting and extra metal to complete the sculpture with support by Commissioner Hadfield.

Discussion about the motion regarding the prioritization of the plaque and seeking additional funding.

Motion by Commissioner Fritz to amend the motion on the floor to state that a \$1000 should be set aside as a contingency fund for the completion of the tree sculpture project with support by Commissioner Hadfield.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-1

Mary Brooks Exhibit

Commissioner Ferencz stated that the art is currently stored at Art Pack. There is concern about the sprinklers located inside of the display cases in the Hawk.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Perko stated that the Kindness Rocks garden project is ready at Heritage Park. Commissioner McDermott commended the collaborative efforts for this project.

Commissioner Hadfield stated that he was the curator for KickstART's gallery this year. Chair Ferencz is currently on exhibition in the gallery. KickstART is currently looking for a new space in the downtown area as their current building has been sold. Commissioner Dutka asked that the commission consider using the space before it must be vacated.

Commissioner Perko discussed the opening of SKEP space in downtown Farmington. The building will actually come down in 18 months, but it will be a temporary home for an arts collective. Mary Lou Stropoli, a member of the DDA's art committee, is leading this effort.

LIAISON COMMENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 10, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by: Chair Ferencz Time: 8:28 PM

Minutes drafted by: Lindsay Janoch