

MEETING MINUTES  
FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION  
Feb 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM  
THE HAWK FARMINGTON HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER  
Activity Room C  
29995 TWELVE MILE ROAD  
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48334  
(248) 699-6712 [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com)

**CALLED TO ORDER BY:** Commissioner McDermott AT: TIME 6:39 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cheryl Blau, Lindsay Janoch, Celeste McDermott, Sean Deason, Ted Hadfield, Don Fritz, Claire Perko, Cindy Carleton, Bree Schwartz, Jeff Dutka, Nora Mason, Lesa Ferencz

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rachel Timlin, Cultural Arts Supervisor/Staff Liaison  
Johnna Balk, Farmington City Council Liaison

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

MOTION CARRIED 12-0-0

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022 MINUTES:**

Motion by Commissioner Janoch support by Commissioner Mason to approve the minutes with amendments.

Amendment: Add Nora Mason to “Members Present” in November 10, 2022 minutes

MOTION CARRIED 12-0-0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** None

**NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS: CHAIR, CO-CHAIR, SECRETARY**

Chair Ferencz explained the nomination process and commissioners discussed the process and eligibility.

Nominations for Chair: Claire Perko, Lindsay Janoch

Nominations for Vice-Chair: Jeff Dutka, Lesa Ferencz, Cindy Carleton

Nominations for Secretary: Lindsay Janoch

Commissioners elected the following commissioners to the following positions:

Chair: Claire Perko

Vice-Chair: Lesa Ferencz

Secretary: Lindsay Janoch

**CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION REPORT**

Makerspace Manager position has been posted. Makerspace won a Facility Design Award from mParks. Rock Around the Hawk was this morning and there was a great turnout. Open Spot Theatre, a program for people with developmental disabilities is running, with a scholarship to support the program. A collaboration with Michigan Arts access has brought Club Create Visual and Performing Arts programs. Violin Workshops were held a few weeks ago to introduce strings to young people and a large group attended from Miracle League of Plymouth. Some of the Division met with NEA member Ismael Ahmed in January to discuss Concert of Colors and other potential opportunities. Summer Camp brochure has been published. Visual Arts classes are doing well and more classes are running than ever. Art on the Grand had twice as many applicants as last year. Public Art program applications open soon. There is a March deadline for the Hawk and a September deadline for City Hall. More than 250 kids auditioned for the youth theatre program this spring and a shift in programming has allowed the involvement of as many as possible, including younger children. Concerts and special events are seeing ticket increases. The Lunar New Year concert with Xiao Dong Wei was almost sold out.

An Evening of Stand-Up Comedy on Feb 11 is sold out. Dames Brown on Feb 18 and Three Men and a Tenor on Feb 25 are coming soon. Love Mural project may be coming. Pottery Throw-Down is coming March 10<sup>th</sup> for the Arts Commission.

### **PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Hadfield would like to move sculptor Ken Thompson's works from Riley Park to The Hawk when they are removed from Riley Park. New sculptures from the same artist are coming to Riley Park soon. Commissioner Perko shared information about the Pocket Park coming to downtown Farmington.

### **COMMISSION FOCUSED 2023 PROJECTS**

#### **Farmington City Hall Art**

Chair Ferencz and Councilwoman Balk will reach out to the Farmington City Manager to re-engage him in this project. Commissioner Schwartz would like to participate in this project.

#### **Tree Sculpture Update**

No new updates. Commissioner Hadfield would like to explore what remains in storage this spring. The subcommittee will discuss signage.

#### **Mary Brooks Exhibit**

Fire sprinklers may make the display cases unusable for this purpose. Chair Ferencz will explore a digital presentation of Brooks' work with a few printed versions and a write-up. The originals are in safe storage at Artpack.

#### **Art Awards**

Discussion regarding the return of the Arts Awards in some form. Rachel Timlin suggested that October would be a good choice as it is Arts and Humanities Month. Commissioners discussed how we might reconfigure the awards and process of recognition.

MOTION BY Commissioner Janoch WITH SUPPORT BY Commissioner Perko

To bring back the Art Awards in some form for October 2023 for Arts and Humanities Month.

MOTION CARRIED 12-0-0

Commissioner McDermott suggested that we form a subcommittee to discuss the form of the return of the art awards: Commissioners Mason, Hadfield, Ferencz, Deason, Janoch and McDermott volunteered for this committee.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Chair Ferencz gave an update on the Holiday party and reported that a great time was had by all.

Commissioner Schwartz distributed a flyer about a "Free Little Art Gallery" project that she is interested in pursuing. Commissioners discussed potential locations.

Commissioner McDermott shared that she is traveling to Jamaica for a community service project to work with Kindergarteners in STEAM projects.

Commissioner Dutka shared an update about his project to save the Alfred Noble Library in Livonia. He asked those who were interested to join the group's Facebook page for more information and share with your networks.

Commissioner Janoch gave an update on the Farmington Player's Barn event that she attended and shared that they acknowledged the contributions of the city, city manager, cultural arts supervisor, and arts commission during their presentation. She noted that they made a point of acknowledging a commendation from the arts commission and we should consider continuing to give those commendations to groups and organizations as is warranted.

Commissioner Hadfield shared that he is enjoying the Adult Improv/Acting Class with fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Carleton requested a standing agenda item for a Cultural Arts report from Farmington. Commissioner Carleton also requested that we consider setting aside funding for a professional development retreat for the Cultural Arts Division and a representative from the commission.

Commissioner Blau shared an update about her students and games they developed to support their studies.

**LIAISON COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Balk attended a student art program and reception on MLK day with Councilwoman Boleware. She also enjoyed the Commission's holiday party.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** MARCH 9, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned by: Lesa Ferencz                      Time: 8:41 PM

Minutes drafted by: Lindsay Janoch