

City of Rochester Arts & Culture Commission
Wednesday March 16, 2022
Community Center Community Room
150 Wakefield Street

(These minutes were approved on April 2022)

Members Present

Matt Wyatt, *Chair*
Ashley Desrochers
Kristin Ebbeson
Palana Hunt-Hawkins
Jamie Kinsley
Ed Pacht, *Poet Laureate*
Amy Marie Regan

Members Absent

Chloe White

Staff: Ashley Greene, *Planning Administrative Assistant II*

(There are the legal minutes of the meeting and are in the format of an overview of the meeting.)

I. Call to Order

Matt Wyatt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A silent roll call was conducted by the recording secretary, Ashley Greene.

III. Membership

Jamie Kinsley informed the Commission that she is moving to Kentucky and her last meeting will be in April. Ms. Kinsley stated that she would submit a letter of resignation following the April meeting.

Mr. Wyatt stated that he plans to submit his letter of resignation in July.

IV. Approval of minutes February 16, 2022

Meeting minutes were not approved as they were not disbursed to the Commission for review. Meeting minutes will be discussed and approved in April.

V. Ed Pacht's Poems and Book

Ed Pacht brought in books of poems that he has written over the years. Mr. Pacht presented four published books. Mr. Wyatt discussed emailing the commission poems from Mr. Pacht's books for review and to nominate at the next meeting. Mr. Wyatt discussed the community project that Mr. Pacht is tasked with when he becomes the Poet Laureate. Mr. Wyatt discussed the book of poems about Rochester and the poems that get nominated at the next meeting will be the poems that go into a book to get published.

VI. Performance Art programing for this summer

Mr. Wyatt discussed Main Street hosting concerts over the summer. The day of the week is still to be determined. Mr. Wyatt discussed the possibility of Performance Art piggy backing onto the Main Street concert series. Mr. Wyatt stated there will be a need for volunteers every week and to attempt to get local artists to attend.

Nathan and Alyssa from Lila Dance Festival attended the meeting to discuss the dance festival returning to Rochester this year. Nathan stated the festival will occur 8/26-8/27, Friday night and Saturday day and night. Nathan discussed how the festival works and the types of dancers and studios that attend. Nathan discussed the mission and goal of the festival.

VII. Art Show/Farmers market

Mr. Wyatt discussed the Farmers Market and possibly having an art show around the time of the Farmers Market. Mr. Wyatt stated that the entire commission would need to assist in getting the Art Show to happen.

VIII. Crosswalk Art

Mr. Wyatt discussed the possibility of purchasing some stencils to add art to some crosswalks throughout downtown. The type of stencils was discussed, pride themed, music notes, piano keyboard, and rainbows. Mr. Wyatt discussed getting the Department of Public Works involved and get the okay to stencil crosswalks. Possibility of a paint day instead of a meeting.

IX. Other Business

Mr. Wyatt discussed Main Street design committee is picking a date for Spring clean up and the planting in Central Square. Typically, there are two clean up days, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Main Street is purchasing the flowers to be planted in Central Square. Ashley Desrochers suggested Lilacs for Central Square. Ashley Greene mentioned that Ryan O'Connor, Planner I, is working on a grant to purchase Lilacs to plant throughout downtown. Ms. Greene stated that she would get more information regarding this grant for the next meeting.

Kris Ebbeson discussed an Exhibit that is occurring at her studio in town. The artist is Merrilyn San Soucie, and the exhibit is a stitched retrospective, that feature paintings with fiber and material. Ms. Ebbeson's gallery is called The Franklin Gallery and the hours are Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mr. Ebbeson stated that she is still looking for artists to

exhibit at the end of 2022 and she has plenty of openings in 2023. Ms. Desrochers discussed talking to some artists that she knows to see if they are interested in exhibiting in Rochester.

Amy Regan discussed the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts being back open to the public and that they are holding receptions on Thursdays. Next month there will be a landscape artist named Adam O'Day. His work will showcase natural landscapes as well as cityscapes from Boston, New York, and some of Rochester.

Mr. Wyatt discussed a mural that will be put in upstairs in the Community Center. The mural will be 80 feet long and it will come in four different pieces. The artist is Spencer McCloud from Berwick Maine. The mural is being funded by the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts. Mr. Wyatt discussed looking for a sponsorship from a business in Rochester. My. Wyatt discussed a mural being put on the new Waypoint building. Mr. Wyatt also stated that the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts received a Recognition for 2022.

X. Adjournment

Palana Hunt-Hawkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Ms. Ebbeson seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Greene,
Planning Administrative Assistant II