



# MEETING MINUTES

## ARTS COMMISSION

MEETING DATE:	Tuesday, April 4, 2023
PLACE:	Zoom and Gordon Room
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:	8:30 a.m.

### ROLL CALL

NAME	PRESENT	PRESENT (ARRIVED LATE)	ABSENT
John Ahearn	X		
Marilynne Bradley	X		
Beth Corelli	X		
Alex Elmestad	X		
Dottie Englis	X		
Rob Longstreet	X		
Judith Mann	X		
Jan Shapiro	X		

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Mayor Laura Arnold  
Director of Public Affairs & Engagement, Jenny Starkey

### **SELECTION OF NEW CHAIR**

John Ahearn was nominated Acting Chair of the Arts Commission until all new members are in place. One member is interviewing on Tuesday evening and another application is expected in May.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Bradley motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Corelli seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

## **POETRY MONTH**

A number of events are in the works for Poetry Month. Checks are ready to pay the leaders of the sessions a stipend of \$60. Social media graphics were created and will be posted and the events have been added to the City's calendar.

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS**

We'd discussed Bob Cassily and also Tom Cooper as potential recipients for the award. Other suggestions included Dan Stevens, owner of the Ozark as a posthumous recipient. Bill Barrett, Jonathan Franzen, Gentry Trotter were also suggested. For the May meeting we will each bring longer descriptions of our nominated individuals and either narrow down or decide at that point.

## **MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES:**

**BUDGET REQUEST:** Budget requests are moving forward. There is some money that has been requested for the banners. However, having arts organizations donate money to help will be important for the success of the project.

It is important for all of the members of boards & commissions to fill out the Balancing Act survey.

**BANNERS:** Mr. Elmestad has pulled together an initial draft of a form to send to arts organizations asking for donations for the banners projects. The banners could be up for 2 years. They would be able to express a preference for location but there are no location guarantees. Possible pricing structure: \$500 is 1 banner, \$1,000 is three banners. We are tentatively working for an August 30 deadline for companies to sign on. The banners will be designed, printed and installed by City of Webster Groves at the start of 2024. Mr. Elmestad will make changes to the form as we discussed and we will revisit in May.

**OZARK THEATRE:** Mayor Arnold spoke with the owner of the theatre. She is not currently ready to talk about a sale of the theatre at this time but she is aware that the City of Webster Groves is interested in being involved. In regards to historic designation or preservation, we will look into this. John Ahearn and Jan Shapiro will reach out to Historic Preservation Commission to see what can be done.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Mayor Arnold mentioned a public hearing on solar panels in historic districts and said she is available to discuss any city questions or issues that anyone has regarding the fire department or other issues. An issue was brought up with people attempting left turns out of Bagel Union Parking Lot and she will look into that.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.