

ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE:	Tuesday September 6, 2022
PLACE:	Zoom and Council Chambers
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:	8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

NAME	PRESENT	PRESENT (ARRIVED LATE)	ABSENT
John Ahearn	X		
Marilynne Bradley			X
Kathie Cahoon			X
Beth Corelli			X
Alex Elmestad	X		
Rob Longstreet			X
Judith Mann	X		
Patrick Murphy	X		
Jan Shapiro			X

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Laura Arnold
Director of Public Affairs & Engagement Jenny Starkey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

We did not have quorum for this meeting and were not able to approve the minutes. We will approve them at the October meeting.

PIANO FEST WRAP-UP

Mr. Murphy reported that this was a successful collaboration. They had roughly 250 people attend the event. They received a \$5,000 grant for the art pianos around town. The Masons provided food. For improvements next year: better communication regarding start-time and details of the event. It was suggested that we refer to the location as the "Front Lawn" of the Mason's Temple rather than say it is at the temple to send the message that this is an outdoor event open to everyone.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS

Joe Rath and Dan Warner will receive the 2022 Lifetime Achievement in the Arts recipients for their work on the Old Webster Jazz and Blues Festival. The event will be held on October 28. Ms. Starkey would like to promote the information a month in advance which means we will need photos and bios by September 20th for promotion in Webster Kirkwood Times and City publications. Mr. Ahearn will develop the invitation. Ms. Starkey will create the certificate and the program for the event or will be able to hire someone to do the designs. We have roughly \$500 for food and drink. While we do not have an invite list, Mayor Arnold will reach out to the recipient's spouses to see if they have names. Gerry Welch and Patrick Murphy will give speeches

for both.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

MURAL: Funding source fell through; an additional funding source will need to be obtained. It was suggested we reach out to the Finnerty's who have funded art endeavors in the past.

SIGNS: Mr. Ahearn will reach out to the sign company to see if they would be willing to come down a bit in price and if not, figure out how many signs we could do with our existing budget.

SCULPTURE PARK NAMING: Ms. Mann is working on a draft of the letter to go to Council in October.

NEW MEMBERS: With two openings, we have two applications to be considered at the September 6 Council meeting so new members will hopefully be in place by October.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Elmestad and Mr. Murphy met on their own to discuss funding and what is needed from the City. This led to a conversation regarding what the mission of the Arts Commission is and if it is doing what it needs to be doing? How is the Arts Commission different from Webster Arts? Where are the guardrails and relationships for the Commission?

Conversation focused on what the future goals of the commission should be. Ideas included:

- Adding sculptures in public places
- The idea of "art in your face" at all times
- Making the tagline "City of the Arts" an official tagline for the City of Webster Groves.
- Public art fund as a 501c3
- Figuring out how we work best with Webster Arts?
- Using funds to one day create a Webster Arts Center

Mr. Elmestad agreed to pull together some talking points about the importance of art in Webster Groves and the benefits of art so that members can speak directly to Council. It was discussed that the commission needs to find better ways to market our own ideas to the public and the Council. Inviting the Council members individually to the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts event can be one way and then producing an annual report of Boards/Commissions can be another way. Mayor Arnold discussed how in the past Boards and Commissions would each deliver an annual update to the Council and we could look into getting this on the Agenda again.

Conversation on these ideas and the goals of the Commission will continue at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.