



Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission

Tuesday, February 4 at 6 pm
Town Hall Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM

Attendees: Ben Reeder, Doug Spicher, Pam Myers-Morgan, Morgan Santos, Justin Glazebrook, Aimee Gigandet, Ben Buckley(Arrived Late at 6:40pm) Missing: Debra Smith & Shannon Culpepper

Guest: Mike Wernig – Staff from Rec

Acceptance of Minutes of 1/7/25

Morgan motion, Pam second

Vote: 5-0-1 Justin Abstained

December Financial Report – Accepted unanimously

Calendar Sales- \$177.52

Merchandise Sales- \$68.00

Correspondence Received

Ben Buckley reassignment on ACT Commission request submitted to Town Council for approval (2/4), including request to make Doug a full ACT commissioner

Mike Wernig, Parks & Rec Dept. (coordinating Garden Tour) began talks to combine and merge event with an artist studio tour. The garden tour has been free and a map is posted online. They are self-guided tours. Pam thought that maybe we should do one year for free trial year. Questions came up about insurance and liability, but this will need to be investigated more. Lots of hesitation around a paid ticket, more interest around suggested donation.

Pam made motion to go ahead with project as a suggested donation event in conjunction with the “How does your garden grow” tour with the Rec 6-0

Decided to have later discussions on refreshments, revenue sharing and children art activities.

Pam suggested we start a sub-committee for this, and Morgan has said that she would be a member of that sub-committee.

Old Business

1. Willey House Park- Morgan helped Avery update the mini art gallery display on Jan. 13.
 - a. Sculpture Update-
 - Sculpture Funding- Current funds available \$3000. Action: identify & secure additional funding source. Still pending, Morgan is open to marketing ideas.
 - Sculpture Location-Action: confirm owner of Willey House will allow sculpture placement on grassy area.

Pam noted let's not lose sight of the original reason we wanted a sculpture, the donated tools.

- Sculpture Design-Reviewed tree design elements and metal finish with designer. Metal finish explanation: the idea is to mold recycled copper sheeting around a metal rod skeleton to get the clay sculpture look and the green patina. Similar to his seahorse sculpture <https://mweinfurter.wixsite.com/arts?lightbox=datapitem-lxt8ju70>. Once location confirmed, we will have to pick a suitable granite block from the "quarry". The tree will be built to its specific shape.

We need to discuss with Debra the timeline for deliverables for this project.

2. Master Plan Update

- a. Subcommittee report of 1/27 meeting- Pam & Doug to provide update. Met twice on the chapter for Arts, Culture and Historical. Trying to get other stakeholders involved. Writing and accepting vision statements. In 2001 the chapter was all historical buildings. We want to still keep the historical assets in the chapter but also want to look forward. Meeting every two weeks.

Aimee has suggested that we use an opinion poll to get some more input from stakeholders.

3. 2025 Project Planning

- a. Library Project Proposal PPT & Meeting- Doug provided an overview of preliminary meeting with project collaborators held on 2/3. Meeting attendees included: Lisa Zhe, Chair Library Trustees, Laura Turner, Friends of Library President, Linda Hopey, Historical Society Board, Mike Provost, 300th Committee, plus Pam, Doug & Debra. Mike Hoffman & Candace Cousins were also invited but unavailable. See meeting notes attached with next steps recommended. Mural panels are trying to bring more vibrancy to downtown and bring more attention to the library. Six recesses around the building that look like windows present a great canvas. Estimated \$8,000 budget for the project with various funding sources. Potential to split the cost over two years. The plan is for all those groups that were invited to come back before the next meeting with a go/no go on whether they would be on board. November 2026 target date if we want to tie in both the 250th and 300th celebrations.
- b. Artist Among Us Pocket Park- Ben Reeder provided mural collage recommendations for May unveiling. The proposal was based on the digital images not the current panels and their state for reuse.

Pam made a motion to go ahead with collage and allocate \$100.00 for a magnet to explain which artists are shown. Seconded by Morgan Approved 6-0

Debra sent Ben a mural proposal by Tina Williams last year to review. List of Studio Tour artists also sent to Ben for future park mural consideration. Morgan to update mini art gallery with new art. It was suggested to use photo contest submissions if needed.

New Business

1. Debra & Doug met with Lela Love on Jan. 17 to discuss project funding. She declined interest in library murals but very interested in funding Elm St. mural renovation once we finalize plans. large donation possible. Commission wonders if a potential donation would be dependent on preserving the mural and rehabilitation
2. T-Mobile Hometown Grant- Deadline for application is 3/31/25. Debra would like to submit application for \$50,000 for Elm Street Mural project based upon its historical past and town impact. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Morgan to have Debra use past and present photos from Elm St. Along with our proven concept from the last mural to write the grant

for T-Mobile. Approved 6-0

Next Meeting March 4, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM

Respectfully submitted, Justin Glazebrook