

Art & Culture Commission Advisory Board Minutes (draft) via Zoom
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 5:00p.m.

Present: Lorie Griffith, Nancy Monson, Lauren Beeney & Carrie Gilbert Art & Culture Commission board members.

West Linn City Staff Present: Doug Erickson, Library Director, Melanie Nelson, Operation Supervisor/Assistant to the Director, Lauren Breithaupt, Finance Director, Lance Calvert, Public Works Director.

Also Present: Teri Cummings, City Councilor & liaison to the Art & Culture Commission & Richard Sakelik, City Council President.

Absent: M.J. Steel, *(excused)*

Mary Kleffner *(excused)*

Beate Scheller *(excused)*

1. Call to Order: Carrie Gilbert, Art & Culture Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

2. Public Comments: None

3. Approval of Minutes: 08.05.2020 approved 4.0

4. Carrie Gilbert, Arts & Culture Commission Chair:

a. Arts expenditures for FY20 (item was B on agenda but moved to A to allow full discussion)
Lauren Breithaupt; City Council needs a recommendation from the Art & culture Commission (ACC) on what “qualifies as art” specifically, need a definition for which city projects qualify for a percentage of the arts. What is earmarked, what City Council has allocated for GO Bonds & noted that most FY19 projects are complete. Carrie Gilbert stated that the ACC did not want to have “retro” funds to create a deficit to future projects. Lauren Beeney stated that she felt that items like flower planters & pavers should not be considered for allocations for “art”. Carrie Gilbert suggested moving forward on city projects that the ACC work with city department directors on what is art for individual projects. Lorrie Griffith had a question regarding how monies are allocated year to year. Lauren Breithaupt explained attachment shared via email & shared screen during Zoom on how a “holding” tank was created year to year. If funds are not depleted in a year, they are moved forward to the next year. Carrie Gilbert said to save confusion and deficit, it was best for the ACC to move forward on projects with the latest code changes. To have this process work, Carrie Gilbert asked Lauren Breithaupt, Finance Director, needed from ACC members. Lauren Breithaupt made the suggestion that the ACC recommend to Council what should/shouldn’t be included in art expense. For example, holiday lights, decorative pavers or underground electrical? If these items are considered “art” then Lauren Breithaupt, Finance Director will need to allocate/deduct these funds from the project as art. Lorrie Griffith stated that she felt that holiday lights are not art. Carrie Gilbert with new code changes it effects previous transportation and GO Bond projects. Lance Calvert, Public Works Director joined the meeting after having technical difficulties. Lance discussed the moving of the meteorite should qualify as art. He also stated that upgrades for “beautification” to projects may be seen as art-LED lights and set up for light show for the public art? Carrie Gilbert

suggested to waive projects that have been approved. Lauren Beeney asked Council for guidance on how Council want to handle allocations. Councilor Teri Cummings said she can't speak for all of Council, only herself, she feels it is difficult to "go back" and get money for past projects. Lorrie Griffith's question: does lighting/electrical count as art? Lance Calvert said that transportation projects in the past didn't qualify for percentage of the arts. Had the ACC been in place when the Main Street project was in its infancy, then the ACC would have been included in project planning regarding percentage for the arts. Lauren Breithaupt explained the arts liability doesn't have to be specific project funds may go to transportation the cap is figured by 1.5% x total of each project. Teri Cummings agrees the moving of the meteorite as art but also wants to see Art/Artists in projects. Carrie Gilbert said the ACC seems to agree moving forward with upcoming projects to qualify for the percentage of the arts and exempt transportation projects GO Bond Fund FY19/20. Teri Cummings said that future projects have been earmarked and should be included for the 1.5% for the arts. Lance Calvert stated that all of the transportation projects currently on the city website except the Sunset Ave. project are all in process without existing project improvements adding 1.5%. By adding the 1.5% into these existing projects would create a \$200,000.00 deficit which means the city will have to take funding from one project to balance that deficit. Carrie Gilbert said she didn't want to go down a rabbit hole on the Main Street project and recommendations and would rather focus on future projects. Council President, Richard Sakelik if ACC went from what is available for percentage of the arts, approximately \$280,000.00 & asked for verification from Lauren Breithaupt. Carrie Gilbert made a motion to ACC to recommend to Council on the September 21st Council meeting to exempt fiscal years 19/20 and focus on 2021. Motion passed seconded by Lauren Beeney. It was agreed that the ACC would prepare a recommendation to present to Council on September 21st. Councilor Cummings posed the question to ACC members: Esthetics vs. upgrades? Lauren Beeney: decorative pavers, not so much. Having personal touch of artist is her personal opinion. Lorrie Griffith: no comment, not on the agenda. Carrie Gilbert: believes in the ACC mission statement & beautification is not included in that statement. Nancy Monson: Agrees with Carrie Gilbert.

- b. <https://americawalks.org/enhancing-walkable-spaces-through-public-art-june-10-2020-> Webinar: Lauren Beeney & Carrie Gilbert, Art & Culture Commission members - Three communities had some great ideas and suggestions: Semantics like "Bee" City, Man hole covers, careful for risk of items being stolen, painted speed bumps, make sure the community has a voice & encompasses the community, encourage community to get out and look at art, have local businesses buy in- local donations, get students out to help with art projects to create displays, build community pride, meeting community where they are, social justice...West Linn may not be there yet, but suggested.
- c. White Oak Savanna- Carrie Gilbert shared via email & via Zoom screen the mock up plaques for White Oak Savanna and asked each member for their opinion on if the Art & Culture Commission members on the placement: Nancy Monson: As a hiker, rather than placing directly under existing sign, as an original sign, it should have a place of its own. Carrie Gilbert: If you move away from original sign, you have a more open format or canvas. Lorrie Griffith: There isn't a map of the White Oak Savanna trail-timeline? How it was all created? Historically? Native Americans? A timeline of the history would be beneficial. Lauren Beeney: If we are going to assist in the sign, then realistically as the ACC it needs to

be opened up to the community for artists. Lauren feels the trail map & timeline should be left to the parks department.

Councilor Teri Cummings stated that Council was asking the ACC their opinion on the plaque, if it was aesthetically pleasing & the ACC thoughts on placement. Carrie Gilbert said that this may not be a project for the ACC and more a Parks Department as White Oaks Savanna is a park. Council President Sakelik suggested to have the ACC work with an artist to create plaque and possibly place in natural paly area. Both Carrie Gilbert & Lauren Beeney agreed that this could be an exciting project, but don't want the ACC to be in the business of placing plaques & the newly created Art & Culture Commission is still working on getting their legs under them. Council President Sakelik would like the project completed before the new council comes on board. Maybe the ACC could take on as a long term project? Item noted to be added to the October ACC agenda.

Carrie Gilbert motioned for a vote if the ACC would like to take on project or decline? Lorrie Griffith: decline. Lauren Beeney: decline. Nancy Monson: decline. Carrie Gilbert: decline. Both Councilor Cummings and Council President Sakelik shared their gratitude to the Art & Culture Commission for their input.

- d. Community outreach- Tabled to October Agenda
- e. Arts & Culture Commission Bylaws/Guidelines- Tabled to October Agenda * a sub-committee was created to include: Carrie Gilbert, Nancy Monson & Lauren Beeney to work on draft of bylaws. All present members agreed to creation of sub-committee.

5. Board Comments: None

6. Adjourn: Lauren Beeney moved to adjourn meeting at 7:09pm. Seconded by Nancy Monson.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted by:
Melanie Nelson
Library Operation Supervisor/Assistant to the Director
09.09.2020

Upcoming Meetings: October 7th, 2020 5pm – 7pm
