

**Art & Culture Commission Advisory Board Minutes (draft) via Zoom  
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 5:00p.m.**

**Present:** Lauren Beeney, Art & Culture Commission Chair, Carrie Gilbert, Vice Chair, Beate Scheller, Nancy Monson Art & Culture Commission board members (ACC). Jody Carson, Chair of the Design Committee, Willamette Historic Main Street (WHMS)

**West Linn City Staff Present:** Doug Erickson, Director of Library & Community Services, Melanie Nelson, Operation Supervisor/Assistant to the Director, Mary Baumgardner, City Councilor & liaison to the Art & Culture Commission, Erich Lais, Assistant City Engineer, Public Works

**Absent:** Mary Kleffner, Art & Culture Commission member (*excused*)  
Andrew Young, Art & Culture Commission member (*excused*)  
M.J. Steele, Art & Culture Commission member- (*excused*) resigned 10.05.2021

1. **Call to Order:** Lauren Beeney, Art & Culture Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 5:03pm
2. **Public Comments:** Jody Carson, Chair of Design Committee, Willamette Historic Main Street stated that a new liaison, Shelley (11.03.2021 update: Shelley plans to possibly join in Jan. 2022) will also be joining to assist the Willamette Historic Main Street (WHMS).
3. **Approval of Minutes:** 04.07.2021 Nancy Monson moved and Carrie Gilbert seconded passed 4:0

**New Business:**

**4. Lauren Beeney, Arts & Culture Commission Chair:**

- a. M.J. Steele, Art & Culture Commission member resigned 10.5.2021. Questions regarding term end dates & steps to replace a Commissioner that resigns. Doug indicated that appointment & replacement is done by the Mayor & City Council. Term end dates are staggered as to ensure not all term end dates vary. A request for new applications will be posted on the City of West Linn Website, application will be reviewed and a replacement will be appointed by the Mayor & City Council. When a Commissioners term ends they may re-apply for a second appointment- also appointed by the Mayor City Council. Melanie Nelson will email contact info/term end dates to Art & Culture Commission and cc: Jody Carson.
- b. **Statue/Water Fountain- Main Street:** Jody Carson reported that the WHMS members and Willamette Neighborhood Association do not want the decorative Lions (on 4 sides) or the statue (Rebecca at the Well) set on top of the structure. Jody also reported that a bike kiosk (bike repair station) with a roof was requested & was

installed without a roof. The Statue was purchased by Lance Calvert, Director of Public Works. The City Council asked the Arts & Culture Commission to share their recommendations of the art for the water fountain & the art. Many of the ACC members were confused on how the “art” was purchased & now the ACC is being asked for their input. Lauren Beeney asked where the funding for fountain coming from & what are the parameters of the ACC for the new fountain? Members felt that role of the ACC is not to “recommend” on art projects *after* art has been procured, but to be an advisory board when art projects are using the percentage for the arts fund. Carrie Gilbert referenced the Savannah White Oak sign in the past.

Mary Baumgardner reported that Elizabeth Rocha has suggested kids from schools could create artistic tiles to place on the base of the fountain. Lauren suggested using all schools in West Linn to possibly participate. ACC members agreed that it would be best for Jody Carson & Willamette Historic Main Street be the lead on design for the fountain & ACC representative along with other represented groups- Neighborhood Association/Business Owners etc. If it is decided that there is a need for custom art or a call for artist, then the ACC should be involved. It was agreed that options should be pursued and a motioned to draft a letter to Council to recommend that WHMS & WNA be consulted.

Erich Lais asked if the fountain need an artistic topper? Jody Carson shared it is important that the topper represents the Willamette Area. She will work with groups on design ideas. Erich said the fountain will be capped until a feature/art piece can be agreed upon. He also shared that there is no “time-line” for installation. This will allow Jody to work with groups & a Rep from the ACC for ideas.

Lauren Beeney motioned for Willamette Historic Main Street & Willamette Neighborhood be lead designers for the fountain-with an Art & Culture Commission Representative. Voted passed 4:0.

**Clackamas County Art Alliance’s new “Arts Groups & City Arts councils”:** Carrie Gilbert reported the Clackamas County Art Alliance has done a bit of a re-boot after being dormant. They have a new Executive Director that has created new committees to work with individual cities/communities along with the Literary Art committee, Visual Art Committee and Performance Art Committee.

The liaison will reach out with smaller groups of information for promotions, outreach regarding art what’s happenings etc. This will be a great resource. Carrie will be the liaison to the Local Arts Organizations/Councils Committee on behalf of WLACC & indicated that the ACC members can rotate being liaison annually? More info to come. The group meets once a month on the last Tuesday. She also reported that both Oregon City and Wilsonville have new ACC groups.

## Old Business:

- a. **Bylaws-final review & next steps for approval:** Lauren Beeney- Lauren reported that she believes that we are ready for next steps to present to the Mayor & City Council. Carrie Gilbert confirmed. Doug will check with Kathy Mollusky, City Recorder to see when we can get on Council Agenda. Doug and Mel will get staff packet together and get to City Council. Updates to follow. Carrie Gilbert motioned to send prepared bylaws to Council. Nancy Monson seconded. Passed 4:0
  - b. **Art Inventory/map-review spreadsheet-discuss additions & details:** Carrie Gilbert has created an interactive map using Google Maps & shared with the group. Using the Google Doc spreadsheet, Carrie listed POI, Type of Art, Location & coordinates & little info about the piece with markers or categories on the Google Map. The map lays out most of the artwork located in the city of West Linn. Beate Scheller said it would be great if street address & park name could also be added. It is a work in progress, but coming along. Many thanks to Carrie for creating the map. She will send out link info to all members.
2. **Board Comments:** Lauren Beeney wanted all to know that the PDX Open Studio will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and third weekend in October 2021. This isn't just in the Portland, but also other cities such as Lake Oswego & Oregon City.  
  
Beate Scheller reported a Group show in Lake Oswego through the month of October in Lake Oswego called "Abandon" in Lake Oswego City Hall- Art Council of Lake Oswego.  
  
Carrie Gilbert mentioned that October seems to be "grant" month. The Clackamas County Liaison Group has grants quarterly & she wanted the group to keep this in mind for the future.  
  
Doug Erickson also wanted to remind the ACC members of the offer to curate an artist or art show in the Community Room at the West Linn Library.
3. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 6:22p.m.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Melanie Nelson  
Library Operation Supervisor/Assistant to the Director  
10.12.2021

**Next Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, November 3rd 5pm-7pm via Zoom**

**Additional document: Email to send to the Mayor, City Council & Lance Calvert, Director of Public Works regarding the fountain/bubbler/statue of "Rebecca at the Well" from the Art & Culture Commission. Voted and passed 4:0 (10.06.2021)**

Good morning everyone- as per our discussion last week, I have drafted an email response to City Council and Lance Calvert re: the proposed Rebecca at the Well water fountain. Since we're not able to make any decisions by email, I would ask that you review the email below and let me know if you find any **inaccuracies**. I will plan to send this on (via Doug) to the council in the next couple of days.

Thank you!

Lauren Beeney

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Dear Councilors Baumgardner, Bialostosky, Jones and Reyla, Mayor Walters and Mr. Calvert- at your request, the West Linn Art & Culture Commission Advisory Board reviewed the proposal for the bubbler/statue of "Rebecca at the Well "on Main street. Since this is not a project using Arts funds, our group did not feel it was appropriate for us to impose the process we have proposed in our draft bylaws for how art should be selected, which includes forming a selection committee and inviting public input. While we recognize we are not in a position to "approve" or "disapprove" the proposal, we suggest other options for the top should be pursued and additional entities (such as Historical Main Street and the Willamette NA) be consulted for their input.

Thank you for the consideration, and we look forward to supporting more art being installed across the city.

Regards,

WLACC

Citizen Members: Lauren Beeney, Nancy Monson, Mary Kleffner, Carrie Gilbert, Beate Scheller, Andrew Young