

**City of Morgantown  
Cultural Arts Commission  
Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2022**

Present: Nikki Bowman Mills – Vice Chair  
Rick McEwuen – Secretary Treasurer  
Mark Downs

Absent: Mark McCoy, Ron Dulaney, Josh Williamson, Brian Butcher, Jeffrey Arnett

**Meeting called to order by at 5:32 P.M. The meeting took place in City Council Chambers.**

**Minutes:**

The February 2022 minutes were reviewed.

**Motion to approve minutes** – Commissioner Nikki Bowman Mills  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Commissioner Mark Downs

**\*Motion passed 5-0** \*Proxies sent by email for Mark McCoy and Josh Williamson

**Public Comment:** None

**New Business:**

**Woodburn Community Center Artist Selection Review & Approval**

Director Kitch provided a summary of the process of the Public Art Advisory Committee and the recommended artist team of Karen Gergely and Heather Rios. The Woodburn Community Mural Project is a grant funded project from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts through their Rural Youth Engagement through Public Art Program. We received a grant of \$5,000 which is being matched by the City for a total of \$10,000.

The Public Art Advisory Committee appointed for this project included: Richard Dalton - Woodburn Neighborhood Assn, Jennifer Kahly - Mountaineer Homeschool Hub, Celia Douglass - Youth Representative - Mountaineer Homeschool Hub, Paige Heaney - Youth Representative , John Trumble - Woodburn Commission , Alison Helm - Co-Director WVU School of Art & Design, Professional Artist, Ron Dulaney - Architect, WVU, former Mayor, Arts Commission, Vincent Kitch - Director of Arts & Cultural Development, and Brian Butcher – City Council Member and Arts Commission Representative.

A call for artists was issued in January and we received 14 applications. PAAC members were asked to review all the artists based on qualifications and their submissions and submit their top five candidates. Based on the outcome from that review, the Woodburn PAAC is recommending the artist team of Karen Gergely and Heather Rios for this commission. Karen Gergely is a native West Virginian who currently lives and teaches in Iowa and Heather Rios was born and raised in Morgantown and lives in Jerome Park.

The Woodburn PAAC recommends the artist team of Gergely/Rios be selected for the project with artist Nichole Westfall from Charleston, WV as an alternate, should one be needed.

**Motion to approve** Commissioner Mark Downes  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Commissioner Nikki Bowman Mills

**\*Motion passed 5-0** \*Proxies sent by email for Mark McCoy and Josh Williamson



the Ruby Summer Concert series at HRMP. The chiller at the Met had some issues and is being repaired in advance of a total system replacement that will be in the summer. Carpet is being installed this week.

**HRMP** - The website [www.rubyampwv.gov](http://www.rubyampwv.gov) is up and being updated weekly. All the Headliners have been announced. Another new event will be the first annual Morgantown Music Festival, Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from noon until 8. Current capital projects at the park include finishing out the depot and office, electrical projects for festoon lighting in the patio area, flagpole lighting, and a new digital kiosk. Another development is that BOPARC notified the city they will no longer be caring for the park. City staff are working to figure out how to coordinate landscaping and bathrooms, etc. In the area of funds development, staff have been successful. To date, in addition to the 2 big grants from the HRMCT, Vincent has raised over \$65,000 in cash through grants and donations and has pledged for another \$15,000 cash. We have received \$5000 in In Kind donations and have the potential for major in-kind support in marketing, that is under development. There is also another \$70,000 in pending grants.

**Other** – To date, Vincent has written 8 grants and another one with the city grant writer. The department has received all 5 of the ones Vincent submitted (\$5000 Mural, \$10,000 digital marquee Met, 2 HRMCT, and \$50,000 from VMC CVB/Mon County). Vincent is also working as quickly as possible to hire 2 interns from WVU, event staff, the new facilities person, and eventually, the Museum Manager position.

#### **Thanks to commissioners**

Bowman Mills – for her work with the Public Art Advisory Committee and the Westover mural  
McEwuen – supporting MHM operations and activities and at the depot interior design.  
Williamson – pedestrian lighting enhancements for the park and on High Street as well.  
Dulaney and Butcher – Woodburn Community Center mural project.

#### **Updates from commissioners**

Mark Downs announced new investors for the Warner Theater restoration, and they are moving forward with plans for renovations.

Nikki Bowman Mills would like to discuss the mission and the role and responsibilities of the Cultural Arts Commission at the next meeting.

**Future Business:** Roles & Responsibilities, commission planning, HRMP rental fees

#### **Update from Commissioners:**

The next meeting will take place on May 11, 2022, Location TBD

**Motion to adjourn Commissioner** Rick McEwuen

**2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner** Nikki Bowman Mills

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Submitted by Rick McEwuen, secretary/ Treasurer