

NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION
March 9, 2021 at 8am via Zoom - Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by Lindsay Rinaldi, chair of the Commission. Commissioners present were Judith Carlson, Paul LaFlamme, Marc Thayer, Steve Ruddock, Travis Tripodi, Sara Caesar, Jennifer Annand, and Elizabeth Lu, with John Eagan via phone. Also present were Cecelia Ulibarri and guests Sara Marchant and Amber Logue, along with potential Commission member Carol Robey.

Commissioner LaFlamme moved to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Commissioner Tripodi; the motion passed unanimously. Under Communications, the Commission discussed the City's art project for the barriers to extend outside dining on Main Street. Although the Commission agreed that having artists paint the barriers was a great idea, concerns were expressed that a call to artists for the project went to bid with only a week notice, that it was not publicly promoted until GAD sent it out in their newsletter on the following Monday, with the deadline only two days away, that the State Council of the Arts promoted it, with apologies for late notice, the day before the deadline and that the timeline for creating the art was not realistic. Concern was also expressed that the Arts Commission, by its charter, is charged with advising the mayor and alderman on the City's arts projects and was never contacted on the project. The Arts Commission has a Call to Artists process in place that was used for the Holman Stadium mural project, and the Sculpture Symposium comes to the Commission every year to approve site suggestions. The question was asked why the Arts Commission was never involved, never saw the submittals, and was not asked to participate in the selection – Alderman Lu said she would discuss it with the Mayor's office and apologized for not asking when it came to the board for approval.

Under old business, Commissioner Carlson reported that all the grant letters were sent out and the checks from the City arrived only two days later (a new record) – and that four organizations receiving grants sent thank you letters to the Commission: Upbeat NH, Sculpture Symposium, Chamber Orchestra and Nashua Area Artists. A brief discussion was held on how to allocate the remaining \$1,000 in the budget and was tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Rinaldi said she had a report of how the remaining grants funds were allocated by the City last year and would share it with the Commission.

Amber Logue, chair of the Imagine Nashua committee and Sarah Marchant, the City's Community Development Director joined the meeting with Ms. Logue leading the discussion on the Arts and Culture section under development. There was agreement that the Imagine Nashua Arts and Culture draft goals segment is a high-level umbrella, while the Arts and Culture plan being developed by the Commission is a five-year action plan under that umbrella. The Commission observed that it was good to see as part of the goals economic development of the City integrating arts and culture into the fabric of the community; celebration of diversity and inclusiveness; and that the plan is a community driven process. When asked what was missing in the Imagine Nashua plan, the Commission mention three specifics: developing a marketing campaign along with the State Division of Tourism to establish Nashua as a destination for the arts; an annual cultural festival (broadening the current on run by the Mayor's office) and using it to improve understanding across all nationalities; an incentive for the arts and cultural organizations to collaborate and work together. Director Marchant also explained placemaking as actions taken to make the city welcoming, active, safe,

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intriguing and a place where people want to be. She also reported that the City's intention is to keep the Keefe as a performance venue. There was agreement that the Imagine Nashua draft goals were good, and that the goals in the Commission's Arts and Culture Plan are highly aligned. The Commission requested that the input received for the Arts Commission's plan is incorporated into the next iteration of the Imagine Nashua plan. The Commission thanked Ms. Logue and Director Marchant for all the work they are putting into the project.

Commissioner Thayer moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner LaFlamme second and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 Via Zoom