

NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

May 14, 2019

City Hall Room Auditorium

Members in attendance: Lindsay Rinaldi, Bill Barry, Judy Carlson, Tina Cassidy, Jennifer LaTouche, Marc Thayer, Tracy Hall, Paul LaFlamme

Absent: Rachel Rendina, Alison Isaksen, Sara Caesar, John Egan

Also present: Amy DeRoche NAC Admin, Cecilia Ulibarri, Bonnie Guercio

Called to order: 8:02 am

1. Minutes: Bill made a motion, seconded by Judy to approve the April meeting minutes. Motion carries
2. Communications: Lindsay will be creating a Google Docs folder that will be shared with the commission that will contain important documents or communications. A letter was created by the NAC for support of the Performing Arts Center (see attached).
3. PAC Update: Drawings from the architect have been received so the private financial “ask” can start for fundraising. The PAC committee is still looking for volunteers to assist with the public phase that will begin this fall.
4. Secretary Position: Bill reported that the historic commission’s by-laws were used as a model and they list the position. Judy doesn’t believe the position is necessary right now, but may be needed in the future if admin support goes away.

Motion was made by Marc and seconded by Judy to leave the position vacant. Motion carries.

5. Finances: Lindsay reported that there is still \$3K left to be allocated for this FY. Cecilia informed Lindsay that per the Mayor, the funds need to be put towards grants. Judy reported that the American for the Arts Survey still needs financial support and she would like to use some of the remaining funds for the survey. Other members of the commission remembered that when the budget increase was requested there was room to use the money for non-grant purposes, and if there was money left over it would then be used for grants that were not fully funded. Cecilia will schedule a meeting with the mayor so this can be clarified.

6. New Business: NISS presentation by Bonnie Guercio for additional sculpture sites along the Broad Street Parkway (see attached).

Motion was made by Jenn and seconded by Judy to approve the 3 new locations. Motion carries.

Defining the NAC purpose: Paul reported that it has never been made totally clear what the NAC’s role is supposed to be. There has been lots of good events in the past but the NAC still doesn’t feel relevant in the community. We need to find a reason to make the Arts organizations want to come to us for help. Marc would

like to see the NAC have more recognition for the grant awards by the organizations. Judy would like to see NAC members more involved and active.

Lindsay requests that all NAC members review the Arts and Culture Plan and our charter and come up with some ideas for the next meeting. She hopes to further define our collective mission based on new input from the mayor.

Lindsay requests that all written reports and agenda items are submitted by 5/28

Motion to adjourn made by Marc and seconded by Paul. Motion carries – 9:04am

NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

February 14, 2019

Mr. George Hunton, Director
Tax Credit Program
NH Community Development Finance Authority
14 Dixon Ave, Suite 102
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Hunton:

The Nashua Arts Commission is a volunteer committee that serves the community as Nashua's cultural resource which facilitates, advocates, coordinates and educates on behalf of the arts and cultural assets of the City of Nashua. The Commission prepared an Arts and Cultural Plan as part of the City's strategic plan that was accepted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in February 2015. Included in that plan is a strong recommendation for the development of a new venue for the performing arts.

We in Nashua recognize what is understood in cities across the world – arts and culture enhance quality of life. People want to live and raise their children in a city that offers a vibrant arts and culture scene. Nashua benefits from one of the most richly diverse populations in the state. The arts speak a common language to all and are a catalyst for integrating cultures together. The mission of the new performing arts center is to enhance the quality of life for all people in the greater Nashua area by providing high quality performances and a favored location for family celebrations and business events. It will bring a richly diverse variety of quality entertainment for all residents of the City.

We also understand that the creative economy is important to the economic growth and stability of any city. Arts and culture generate revenue. Arts and culture draw new employees to the work force. People want to visit, play, work and stay in a city with a vibrant arts and culture scene.

For over three years a massive amount of research and planning has taken place involving the City, the community and respected consultants in the area to make sure the project is successful and sustainable. Nashua also benefits from hundreds of involved citizen volunteers working long and hard together with the city in public and private partnership to bring the cultural and economic benefits of the arts to our community.

The Nashua Arts Commission strongly endorses and supports the City's plan to open a Performing Arts Center in historic downtown Nashua. We would welcome your assistance in advancing this initiative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roberta Barrett
Acting Chair

NAC Budget Tracker	Original Budget Amount	YTD Expenditures	Date Released	Notes
	\$40,000.00		July 1, 2018	
Expenses				
Grant Awards	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	April 10, 2019	Approved on 3/12/19, \$6260 grant requests left unfulfilled
Discretionary Funds	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		
Workshops	\$400.00	\$0.00		
Marketing	\$1,600.00	\$0.00		
Total	\$40,000.00	\$37,000.00		
	Total Remaining Funds	\$3,000.00	Spending Deadline 6/11/19	

Nashua International Sculpture Symposium
Annual Sites Report
April 2019

Symposium Sites

Subcommittee Members

Gail Moriarty

Darold Rorabacher

Kathy Hersh

Request

The Nashua International Sculpture Symposium requests approval of the following sites for future sculptures:

- Three locations Broad Street Parkway

History

The Nashua International Sculpture Symposium is an annual three week community event held in the spring of each year. Since 2008, sculptors from around the world have come to Nashua to create large outdoor granite or metal sculptures. The sculptures are given to the City at no cost to the City. They are placed in public places that are accessible to everyone.

Process

Identifying appropriate locations for sculptures and garnering the required approvals are important responsibilities of the Nashua International Sculpture Symposium. Each year the Sites Sub-committee:

- Identifies potential sites for consideration
- Evaluates sites based on established criteria
- Recommends sites to the Symposium Committee

The Symposium Committee votes on the final recommendations and refers the final sites to the City (previously the Mayor, now the Nashua Arts Commission) for approval. The Sites Sub-committee pursues additional approvals (Library Board of Trustees, BPW, State of NH, etc.) of the approved sites.

When the Symposium sculptors arrive in May, they tour each of the approved sites. Each sculptor selects their site, marks the exact location with a stake, and indicates the direction the sculpture will face. The list of selected sites including photos are then sent to DPW, who contacts dig safe and installs the bases.

Criteria

The criteria for site evaluation include the size of the site, environmental issues, ease of access both for installation and for the public once the sculpture is installed, and visibility of the site. Appendix A documents the detailed list of criteria with descriptions.

Detailed information for each of the proposed sites follows.

Broad Street Parkway

The Broad Street Parkway is a 1.8-mile, two-lane road from Broad Street to the Nashua Millyard. It offers several locations for enhancement with sculptures as a welcoming to our Downtown.

Location	three locations are proposed, all on the west side because that is the location of the sidewalk.
Public Space	Yes
Size of Sculpture Site	Large
Toxic	No
Wetland	No
Neighborhood type	Roadway
Visual Distractions	None
Visible to Pedestrians	Yes
Visible to Car Passengers	Yes
Handicapped accessible	Yes
Touch Sculptures	Yes
Transport to this site	Easy
Installation on this site	Easy
Required approvals	Board of Public Works approved in March 2019
Additional Notes	



Previously approved sites

The following sites have been approved by the City and have not been selected for sculptures to date. They remain on the list of available sites:

	Site approved by City	Year	Status of other approvals	Potential for future sculpture at this time	Comments
1	Foster Square	2008	Approved by Public Works	This site was previously the home of Birth of Venus, which was moved at the request of the neighborhood.	Existing base; Alderman Klee is delighted to have a sculpture here. She checked with neighbors to make sure they welcome one too and they do.
2	Elm St. Middle School	2008	Specific sculpture needs approval of the Principal and sign off by Superintendent	Sculpture was installed in 2008 and removed in 2014 at the request of Superintendent Conrad.	Existing base; not Elm Street School at this time since it is slated for repair or replacement
3	Mount Pleasant School	2014	Specific sculpture needs approval of the Principal and sign off by Superintendent	This site is really too small but we want to leave on the list in case the right opportunity comes up.	April 2018 meeting with Dr. Mosley; he said not Mt. Pleasant at this time
4	Mine Falls Park Mill Pond Entrance	2015	Approved by Public Works	The Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee has requested that only one sculpture be installed in MFP per year.	
5	Mine Falls Park Boat ramp	2015	Approved by Public Works	The Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee has requested that only one sculpture be installed in MFP per year.	
6	Nashua High South	2016	Specific sculpture needs approval of the Principal and sign off by Superintendent		On 4/2/18 Dr. Mosley said this is a good location; we need to meet with the Principal and keep Dr. Mosley

					informed
7	Corner of Pine Hill Road and Charron Ave	2016	Airport Authority approval needed	We met with the Airport Authority. They were very positive but are planning to 'improve' that location and do not yet have a plan. They would like to consider including a sculpture when they are ready.	
8	Riverwalk between Jackson Falls and Margarita's	2014	Approved by Community Development Division		Installation is challenging at this site; a smaller sculpture is needed here because heavy equipment will damage existing walkway.
9	Legacy Park	2017	Approved by Public Works		
10	Nashua River Rail Trail	2017	Approved by Public Works	Two sites are located on the Hollis line. Park and Rec Superintendent Nick Caggiano supports.	
11	Constitution Plaza	2018	Approved by Public Works		
12	Main Street	2018	Approved by Public Works	BPW approved site at 146 Main Street.	

APPENDIX B. CRITERIA FOR SITE SELECTION

Each candidate site was evaluated based on the following criteria.

<u>Public Space:</u>	The artists create their sculptures knowing that they will belong to the city of Nashua. The sculptures need to be on public property.
<u>Size of Sculpture Site:</u>	Small sites may not be viable for large sculptures, likewise large sites may not be viable for small sculptures.
<u>Toxic:</u>	Some land in Nashua has been recovered from asbestos and landfill contamination. It is not possible to dig into these sites for a sculpture foundation.
<u>Wetland:</u>	Wetlands are not suitable both because of their ecological sensitivity and the risk to the sculpture's stability.
<u>Neighborhood Type:</u>	It is important to consider the impact of a sculpture on a neighborhood.
<u>Visual Distractions:</u>	Other things in the area, such as overhead wires, signs, etc, can interfere with sculpture installation and can detract from the sculpture's sight lines.
<u>Visibility to Pedestrians:</u>	It is desirable for the sculptures to be visible to pedestrians.
<u>Visibility to Car Passengers:</u>	It is desirable for our sculptures to be visible to passing cars.
<u>Handicapped Accessible:</u>	It is desirable for people in wheelchairs to be able to appreciate sculptures as well as the able bodied.
<u>Touch Sculptures:</u>	One of the advantages of outdoor sculptures is that they are touch. Unlike most art, they can be touched. Sculpture sites that allow people the access to touch the sculptures are preferable. This is especially meaningful to the blind.
<u>Transportation to the Site:</u>	It must be possible to get the sculpture to the site for installation.
<u>Installation on the Site:</u>	It is necessary to get equipment to the site to prepare it for the sculpture. Some sculptures require site preparation (such as creating a concrete foundation) prior to installation.
<u>Required Approvals:</u>	Required site approvals are specific to each site. For instance, once a site receives approval from the Arts Commission, it might also require approval from the Board of Public Works, the School Board, or Conservation Commission.
<u>Range of Sculpture size</u>	Maximum relative size of potential sculpture on the site
<u>Possible Materials for Sculptures</u>	Materials can be stone, metal or mixed

Bases that would be acceptable Could be crushed gravel, Standard bases, or custom

Additional Notes Any other information that might be useful.