



Arts and Culture Commission MEETING MINUTES RECORD

Meeting: ACC Retreat Meeting **Date:** August 15, 2017 **Location:** City

Hall 2nd floor Training Room

Scheduled start time: 9:00a.m. **Scheduled adjourn time:** 2:30 p.m.

Members present: Bonnie Jean Flom (Chair), Kent McWilliams, Cynthia Gilbertson, Paula Granquist, Karna Hauck, Alyssa Herzog Melby [Regular Appointees],

Members absent: Mark Gleason (Vice-Chair), Timothy Vick (Secretary), Jill Ewald, Jariya Goerwitz, Danny Allin, Olivia Archambault [Youth Representatives].

Others present: Rhonda Pownell (Mayor), Kathy Rush (Staff Liaison), Teresa Jensen (Staff Liaison).

Item	Discussion	Action
Call to Order	Time 9:00 a.m.	
Approval of Agenda		Motion: McWilliams Second: Granquist Approved.
Public comment	No public comment.	
Approval of Minutes from the meeting of June 12, 2017	Minutes were approved without change	Motion: Gilbertson Second by: Hauck Approved.
Getting Acquainted	The commission members introduced themselves and talked about their background in the arts and what attracted them to serve on the ACC. New Commissioner, Kent McWilliams was introduced. Hauck read Rob Hardy's poem that he wrote for the Sidewalk Poetry Capstone on August 17.	
City Strategic Plan Update	Mayor Pownell spoke on enhanced tourism and recreation as where the arts are included in the city's Strategic Planning. She suggested that our facilities are not used as well as they could be. For example, they love the city but hate the Ice Arena. What can we do to bring the community to life? She suggested the book "For the Love of Cities". This book gives great opportunities/suggestions for cities. Hauck thought that Northfield is known as an arts community, but it is not living up to its reputation. Mayor Pownell asked that the ACC review the Downtown Streetscape Plan and the Gateway Improvement Plan to see if there are things we can do to improve and delight. She suggested that we work with the Park Board when opportunities arise to influence their projects. Hauck wants the ACC to be aggressive in advocating for the arts in the City. The ACC needs to complete its strategic plan to be included in the city's.	
Recognitions	Flom commented on the wonderful Northfield Arts Guild production of "Pirates of Penance". It was noted that the Northfield Youth Choir performed in Norway this summer with Commissioner Hauck traveling with them as a chaperone. A reminder about "The Northfield Experience" that will be May 3, 4 and 5, 2018.	

Reflecting on ACC Goals established at the 2016 retreat	One of the 2016 Goals was to promote a "Friends of the Arts" organization. It was discussed that allying with the Northfield Arts Guild accomplishes this goal. They are the organization that brings arts organizations in town together. Another Goal was to shift some of our current projects to other organizations or volunteers to free up the commission to tackle new projects goals. The Arts Visioning group of the NDDC (and their plans for ongoing	
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	“First Friday” events is an example of a local organization promoting the arts and culture of Northfield. A third goal was to create a Public Art Policy. The ACC is working at completing this document. It was presented to the City Council for their review and feedback on August 8, 2017. The ACC submitted and received two substantial SEMAC Grants for Sidewalk Poetry and the High School Sculpture Project. They carried out a successful “State of the Arts” event in November 2016 with funding from Northfield Shares. The information gathered at the “State of the Arts” event has contributed toward the development of a cultural plan for Northfield. Brief updates at Council meetings increased City Council awareness of the ACC and what projects they are working on. The need for a comprehensive arts calendar for the city was discussed and Commissioners are asked to send links to examples of effective arts calendars to Chair Flom.	
Cultural Planning	The first of four retreats of the ArtsMidwest/ArtsLab Cohort will take place on September 17 & 18. Local participants include Mayor Pownell, Library Director Teresa Jensen, Carleton Dance faculty member Daphne McCoy, Arts Guild Director Alyssa Herzog Melby, CVB Director Lisa Peterson, and NHS Art faculty member Karna Hauck.	
Examination of City of Northfield documents relating to the ACC	The Commissioners looked at Ordinance 855, which established the Arts and Culture Commission, the State of the Arts 2006 document and the city’s strategic plan summary. Ordinance 855 is a spinoff of Arts plan Plan’06 and is important because it identifies the ACC’s responsibilities as a commission.	
Strategic Goals for 2017-2018	Major Preliminary goals that were identified (discussion to continue in September ACC Meeting): 1. Producing a comprehensive city arts calendar that will increase visibility and visitors. It should be easily accessible. 2. Developing better signage for marketing/branding and advertising. Use a professional design firm to create a ‘look’ that is cohesive and recognizable. 3. In future developments in the city – having a voice in the landscaping of areas (adding trees, green spaces and art). 4. Establishing a 1% for the Arts Ordinance Amendment 5. Developing a Cultural Plan 6. Interfacing Arts and Culture with the City’s Strategic Plan 7. Addressing the Arts Corridor; consideration of a plan in phases	
Other		
	Rob Hardy will be having the Poet Laureate Capstone on September 30th. This poetry festival will have three events – • 10:30 am reading by local poets at Content Books • 1:00 Youth readings at the Library • 4:00 open Mic Poetry at Imminent	
Adjournment		
Adjournment	Time: 2:30 p.m.	

Submitted by Kathy Rush, Temporary Secretary.