

AMAC Meeting Minutes for Oct 14, 2020 on Zoom 5:30-7:00

Meeting called to order at 6:30

In Attendance: Beth Braun, Andrew Chiki, Kelly Lawrence, Chelsa Morahan, Carol Patterson, Jeff Risner, Scott Winland

I. Call to order and legislative updates: Andrew Chiki and Jeff Risner.

The City is working with a company to create a fiber-optic connection across the city and have prioritized the connection to Arts/WEST. Hoping to go to Council for first reading on Monday, October 19.

II. Minutes from September 9, 2020 (Sent by Josh Birnbaum) for approval.

Motion to accept the minutes (Carol Patterson); seconded (Kelly Lawrence);
MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES: **PASSED**

III. Ongoing issues and projects.

A. Arts West

A group/committee is being put together to look into the feasibility of establishing a 501c3 to benefit Arts/WEST (i.e., a "Friends of Arts/WEST"). The members of the committee will be announced shortly.

B. Art Outside the Box: Kelly Lawrence and Ann Judy.

All of the artists from the latest round have now been contacted and asked by the City to send in their sized images for production and installation.

C. AMAC Policies: Chelsa Morahan

The first draft of the rewrite of the AMAC Policies has been posted for Commissioners review and comment (Google Drive/AMAC Resources/AMAC Public Arts Policy 2020-10-14-2020).

IV. New issues

A. Renewal of AMAC terms and goals for 2021.

Terms - Carol Patterson, Beth Braun, and Chelsa Morahan were renewed for two more years (one term). This will be Carol and Beth's final term on the Commission as per the Mayor.

Goals/Projects – Some things previously discussed include making an Arts Calendar, Arts Funding, Heritage Square (Armory, Mt. Zion Church, History Center) in 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Kelly revived her thoughts about/hope for creating a “Photograph Wall” (or “frame”) where people can pose in front for an intrinsically Athens image. Andrew offered an example from a city he has visited. (web address?)

Scott and Kelly discussed their hopes to bring the Athens Music and Art Festival back post-pandemic.

Andrew stated that the pilot of the “Parklet” program is ending and it appears that City Council is interested in adopting the Parklet Program permanently. The proposed language indicates that the spaces could be used for the arts, outdoor seating, gardens. The proposal also narrows in on sub-sections of the uptown area with a limit of 4 applications per area (based on a percentage of allowable parking spaces in an area).

Carol mentioned a desire for making better use of other spaces for outdoor entertainment i.e. movies on top of garage, Armory Park, skate park, Sells Park, amphitheater at the public library. Andrew confirmed that this is something that has been discussed before and is possible. He reports that there is an application process in place for hosting events on the top of the garage.

Chelsa raised some concern about the status of the benches, etc. at the Armory Park (nails popping, splintering, etc.). Andrew offered to investigate that immediately.

B. Ad Hoc committee for considering murals on East State St.

Community member, Buzz Caul, expressed interest in having murals put on the maintenance buildings that are located at the Community Center (with backs facing E. State). Carol reports that the Mayor is in favor and, although there are no immediate plans for moving them, that people should be aware that those buildings will not be there forever. The Mayor suggested Keith Wilde be consulted and Andrew recommends that Arts, Parks, and Rec be involved. Buzz wants elementary and/or middle school art teachers involved. The concept is an image for each building with a united theme where a different group paints each image (image to be projected and outlined then community participation in “paint by numbers”). Project needs an overseer and paint (Buzz will contribute part of that). Jeff suggested commercial sponsorship. Beth offered to lead a committee to investigate and come up with a plan to flesh out what it will look like, theme, etc. and execute.

V. Announcements and other business.

Carol asks the group to consider whether we would like to apply again for the OAC Governors Awards Community Development and Participation.

VI. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Jeff Risner); Seconded (Chelsa Morahan)

Meeting adjourned at 6:27pm

Next Meeting November 11, 2020 5:30-7 via Zoom

Submitted by Elizabeth Braun