

AMAC Meeting Minutes - Dec 12, 2018 at ARTS/West, 5:30-7:00

In Attendance: Carol Patterson, Steve Patterson, Josh Birnbaum, Emily Beveridge, Chris Chmiel, Kelly Lawrence, Ann Judy, Beth Braun, Kent Butler

I. Call to order and legislative updates - Butler and Patterson

A. Poet Laureate renewal

This will happen soon.

B. AMAC members renewal

Mayor Patterson asked all those who were up for reappointment if they wanted to continue and they all verified commitment to AMAC.

C. OAC Conference

Mayor Patterson led the plenary session at Ohio Arts Council Conference this year. He was asked by Donna Collins to put together panel with folks from Yellow Springs, Lancaster, and Malta/McConnellsville. Theme was "Big Art, Little Cities." Talked about how art in small communities is important. About 200 people in attendance.

II. Guest - Chris Chmiel; Arts grant status

Creative Counties Project hosted Athens area folks in Iowa. Attendees: Chris Chmiel, Jessie Powers (county planner), Leslie Schaller, Paige Alost, Patty Mitchell, and David Griesmyer. Donna Collins from OAC went and also wants to help us. No funding, but there's coaching involved.

They had three goals: create a countywide arts council, incorporate arts into community improvement challenge (out in the county villages), and find ways to use arts for economic development in those villages.

Countywide arts council: how do we get different arts organizations to work together to achieve greater goals? We have no structure or support in the county yet. Not much public art out there yet. How do we do that without a staff person? We could get one. Jane from the Dairy Barn and Emily Prince from Stuart's are willing to work on this. How could we fund it? Cleveland (Cuyahoga Arts and Culture) has 1.5 cent tax on cigarettes to fund this kind of thing. Toledo council is being researched, they have a large staff. Soda tax? Plastic bag tax? Will research other ways to generate funds.

Can we get advice from someone else as to how this is structured? Do the OAC folks have advice? Athens Area Citizens for the Arts, can it be revitalized? Names were collected for the database, and a map was made. Emily Prince worked with Bob Winters on it. Can folks from the Arts Guild help? Unpaid work could lead it to be derailed. A website could also be a part of this, perhaps a

section of the visitor's bureau website. Asheville has an arts hub website connected to their tourism website. Bob Winters wanted it separate and its own entity as a consortium. This database/consortium would help artists have recognition. Could coordinate artists and institutions as well. An office for the countywide arts coordinator position would be housed at Stuart's, eventually having its own location and storefront. There's opportunity with the land bank, utilizing vacant and cleaned up properties for arts. How do we use that opportunity?

Could we model how AMAC has done it for a countywide approach? There is the perception of city vs. county competition. AMAC member should make more of an effort to go out there? Our county has different demographics. Not many counties like us. AMAC has plenty of work and county work could be a lot more to tackle. AMAC knows how to do legislative stuff. AMAC can help with that part of it. County arts council should focus on art as economic and community development.

Chris will send out the documents.

III. Continuing Projects

A. Wastewater Treatment Plant Mural; Beth Braun

The city has two submissions. Concerned if we are going to get more applications. Should we extend further? How do we get the word out more widely? It's posted on the website and it's been sent out via email and social media with a press release. Other avenues for promotion: Arts Guild, Julie Dummermuth at OU, Hocking College. Got posters made and put up around town. ANews and WOUB and Messenger. We have let students apply in the past. We can solicit artists too. Terry Fortkamp did the one in the hospital and in Glouster. Jolena Hansbarger and Keith Wilde did some at the Eclipse Company Store. Could push it to early March, then April could begin, completion deadline done by May or June 30.

MOTION TO EXTEND DEADLINE FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT MURAL TO MARCH 1ST IF NOT ENOUGH ENTRIES BY JAN 7 DEADLINE - PASSED

B. Bench Project continuation

The independent committee that did the first bench is done. The city would like to do more. Terri Moore has taken this on her plate. Fits in with idea of items, art, and symbols that are replicated and recognized within the city. The mayor will be thinking about how we want this to carry forward and will come back to us with ideas. Will need to come up with plan: how many will be rolled out, what locations, funding/donors? AMAC can still oversee as advisory body. Other cities have done art bench initiatives: the most successful ones don't have a same bench, there's difference. Some had chalkboards on the back, for example.

IV. Looking ahead

A. Visit from the Arts Corridor Representative, Rebekah. Terry, Carol and Josh Dec 17 or 18.

Looking to plan for Rebekah Griesmyer's visit to show spaces for potential large sculptures and possibly public art we want included in the Arts Corridor. Carol and Terri Moore and Mayor Patterson will meet with her. What should we show her? How can we collaborate with them? They would like a David Griesmyer sculpture in Athens as well. What about roundabout spaces? What about space near the Habitat for Humanity House on Union Street, or along the bike path? Looking for high visibility areas. We have the ultimate say in subject matter of sculpture and we can have other input. Will also take her on a tour of Athens public art to showcase what we have. Josh will send Carol some materials.

B. 2019 Art and Music Festival

Scott is meeting with Hocking College this week. He will find out funding. Date is still TBD, but around the same date Aug. 17th or 18th would be fine. Hoping to get more businesses involved.

C. Sculpture Park and The Art Corridor - Terri Moore

The mayor needs help with finding large sculptures for the park next to the Armory. Matt Wedel in Albany is potential. Looking at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho: they have all sorts of sculpture art out and it's for sale. Space for about 5 big pieces. City would carry a level of liability on the art being in there. Want to keep it to artists from around Ohio. Looked at someone in Martinsburg WV and there's one in Parkersburg WV (Zach Orcutt). Wanda Johnson's large Nelsonville blocks coming up out of the ground? Lancaster has some large sculptures all over the city.

D. 2018 Annual Report

Terry suggested AMAC does a yearly report. Josh will send Carol one. Report with accomplishments, visuals, and Powerpoint slideshow / PDF. AMAC could also have a visioning day: what do we want to do this upcoming year? What could we improve? What have we done well? Get together over lunch for a day. We could bring a guest or two to share with us too. We will also add in to our monthly meetings an ARTS/West update so there's better collaboration between AMAC, City, and Arts Parks and Rec.

V. Announcements and other business

A. ARTS/West reopening

Hopefully pushed until Jan. 26, Feb. 16 or other date pending city availability (will be solidified soon).

B. Award Ceremony

Tomorrow from 5-7pm at Southeast Ohio History Center the Athena Award will be presented to Elise Sanford for her work and impact with the Athens Photographic Project.

VI. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Jan. 9th, 5:30-7 at ARTS/West