

AMAC meeting minutes for December 8, 2021, 5:30-7:00 PM
Arts West
132 West State Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

In attendance:

Kelly Lawrence, Chelsa Morahan, Scott Winland, Holly Ittel, Beth Braun, Jeff Risner, Josh Birnbaum, Kelee Riesbeck (via Zoom)

Guests:

Paul Logue (Athens City Planner), Katherine Ann Jordan (APRD Director), Emily Beveridge (Arts West Program Specialist)

- I. Call to Order and legislative updates: Andrew Chiki & Jeff Risner

N/A

- II. Minutes from November 10, 2021 for approval: Josh Birnbaum

Corrections: Spelling of “Krampus” and date of parade changed to Dec. 4
MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES AS CORRECTED: **PASSED**

- III. Arts West / Arts of APRD Update: Emily Beveridge & Katherine Ann Jordan

Arts West Updates:

The Athens Art Guild will continue to display their artwork in the gallery at the Community Center through the end of January.

Charlie Haskins' show at Arts West will be on display through the Arts West Holiday closure, which begins on December 23rd.

The Itty Bitty Print Exchange will display their work in the gallery in the Arts West Performance Space for the month of January. A closing reception will occur on Friday, January 28th from 5-7pm.

Lost Flamingo Company will now utilize Arts West for all their theater productions, with the exception of Rocky Horror, for the calendar year of 2022.

PRISM LGBTQ+ after school art program will be returning to in person programming on Mondays starting on January 10th at Arts West.

Tantrum Theater will begin it's Middle School Drama Club at Arts West on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on January 11th. There currently are 50 students enrolled in the program.

The Holiday Prints, Plants and Pots Sale generated \$12,000 in sales for the vendors who participated. Arts West receives 10% commission on sales.

Arts, Park and Recreation Dept. Update:

The Krampus parade had about 20 people show up. Chris Chmiel even brought a goat! Kelly is hoping to do more with it next year. Perhaps there can be something at the community center with more planning and advertising. They would like to have more variety and be more inclusive with holiday celebrations. People could do pictures with Krampus, like kids do pictures with Santa. Perhaps a costume contest?

IV. Special Guest: Paul Logue, City Planner

The city's comprehensive plan identified the arts as part of the vision of the city and it should be reflected in our built environment. Paul has been thinking about the original Essence of Athens plan, which is now 9 years old. He is thinking about updating that arts plan or start drafting a new city arts plan for 2023. What worked? What didn't work well? What other topics or themes arise?

The city will be working on ADA transition plan to get the city and city facilities and operations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. They are also looking at how to reimagine the Hocking River corridor, how to make it a bigger asset, something we want to be around, a dynamic feature of the city. It was rerouted in 1971! Is there an opportunity to include arts in the development of this part of the city? They are discussing moving the fire department to Stimson Avenue. What will happen to that property on Columbus Road once they move? Is there a chance for expansion of the children's museum? The city would like to design the new fire department on Stimson Avenue with communal space, and a big wall, so how could percent for the arts be utilized in that project? Could there be a band shell built so concerts and performances happen in the space between there and the river? Is there flooding there? The building will have to be raised up at least 4.5 feet. Would they have to raise the potential concert shell as well? Perhaps not since it is an outdoor feature.

If the city is doing another Essence of Athens strategic plan, it should include not just visual art and public art, but also performance art. If and when we do another community arts planning and design process, AMAC will be heavily involved. Paul is thinking 2022 we can have conversations and start building the

framework. Could this tie into the 20th anniversary of AMAC? Perhaps with gatherings or events, we can get people to give feedback.

Could poet laureate work be built into the sidewalks, for example?

V. Ongoing Public Projects:

a. Art Outside the Box - Round 4: Holly Ittel & Kelee Riesbeck

The RFP is almost ready to go. They are waiting on one of the jurors, Quinn Hunter, to confirm. They are hoping to open the RFP for submissions on Jan. 1st. Kelee did reach out to Quinn Hunter and Holly will meet with her on Friday and try to discuss. Kelee emailed AMAC members some historical facts from Tom O'Grady that could be included on potential submissions.

b. Athens Community Center Mural: Beth Braun & Kelee Riesbeck

Kelee reached out to press again. Kelee might try to write something and submit it to the paper. The other option is to post it on the city's Instagram. Beth has photos of the process she can share with Kelee and with any potential publication. This can also be featured on the Athens Community Center page.

c. Mural Walk update

More coming soon. Josh will reach out to a few artists to help fill in more data and then can tackle one section at a time.

d. Poet Laureate

AMAC will need to start thinking about an RFP to come out in 2022, so a new laureate can start in January 2023.

e. Possible future projects, Blue Eagle Bench

Kelly spoke with Roman Warmke, who started the Athens Artist Memorial Project. He is excited to help get a memorial bench or plaque for J.D. Hutchison at Blue Eagle. The current bench has to be brought in every night. The new bench should be easy to move, or could be a permanent public bench that is bolted into the sidewalk. The memorial project has already been given some money for some kind of memorial. There might be some kind of concert at the Union to raise funds as well.

Is this something that will be planned? Or should AMAC issue an RFP? First, Kelly will talk to J.D.'s family to make sure they are fine with it and see what they want.

A company in Marietta, Resolve, did the design for the bench near Little Fish. They could be consulted. This could be a combination of private donations and city funds. We could also consult David Griesmyer of D.G. Welding and Design in Malta, Ohio.

VI. Ongoing Commission Business:

a. Ohio Arts Council Governor's Arts Awards 2022

No word from the OAC about AMAC's application yet.

b. 2022 Event Discussion/20th AMAC Celebration

AMAC will form an ad hoc committee to plan an event and figure out what a good celebration would be? Holly and Chelsa will meet and Emily can host at Arts West. They can update AMAC in January.

VII. Commission Action Items:

a. New Member Handbook Items

Will discuss at next meeting.

b. Social Media Coordinator

Holly has been appointed as the social media coordinator for AMAC!

VIII. Announcements and other business

This is Scott's last meeting because he has reached his term limit. Scott will continue to work with AMAC on the Community Music and Arts Festival. Term limits are being enforced.

Has AMAC ever nominated anyone in Athens County for the Ohio Heritage Fellowship Award through Ohio Arts Council? The textile artists of southeast Ohio? Don Macrostie and his mandolins? The award is to celebrate cultural arts that strengthen the state's character. Deadline is in March of every year. This will be on the January agenda.

Emily and Katherine talked about adding art to the upstairs of the community center. There's a walking track and about 30 windows and then a break between windows. They could install a rod hanging system for easy install and take-down of work.

IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 12, 2022, 5:30-7:00 PM at Arts West