



CULTURAL COMMISSION

LEE'S SUMMIT

Cultural Commission

ACTION LETTER

March 20, 2024

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Eames called the March 20, 2024 Cultural Commission to order at 6:07 p.m. in the Strother Conference Room at City Hall, 220 SE Green St.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Chairperson Eames
Vice Chairperson Allen
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Gale
Commissioner Keshner
Commissioner Taylor
Commissioner Thill
Commissioner Flowers
Commissioner Hennequin
Commissioner Soucie
Commissioner Chubbuck

Absent

Commissioner Townsend
Commissioner Basham

Special Guest

Lauren Palmer, Director of Local Government Services, from the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

Staff

Shannon McGuire
Glenda Masters
Silvia Arellano Fernandez
Lisa Azimi

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Keshner to approve the agenda amended to add a discussion item about the Artist Selection Committee for the Market Plaza public art entryway piece. The motion carried by a 10-0 vote (Commissioners Basham and Townsend absent).

4. Approval of the February 21, 2024 Action Letter

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Gale to approve the February 21, 2024 Action Letter. The motion carried by a 10-0 vote (Commissioners Basham and Townsend absent).

5. Public Comments

None



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6. **Review Revised Work Plan for Commission Priorities**

Ms. Palmer displayed the Cultural Commission Workplan spreadsheet. The goal was to polish up the 5 goals, focus on a timeline, and then the information will be pared down into a concise presentation, slide deck, and talking points for City Council on April 23rd.

1. **Sustainability and Environmental Preservation (5th objective)**

Ms. Palmer asked how the Commission wants to see this captured? Possibly start with simple things such as native plantings on City property and invasive plant control. Creating a subcommittee was mentioned to work on actions items and come back to the full Commission. Commissioner Chubbuck suggested small native plant areas carefully designed with signs designating they are not weeds. A parallel piece can be recycling and repurposing to help people understand what can be recycled and where. Commissioner Thill mentioned putting pressure on MoDOT to maintain litter in the Right-of-Way, with which many agreed. Chair Eames asked about creating a pitch similar to the 1970's Give a Hoot don't pollute campaign to help engage the community. Of all of the things, education, native planting, what would you do first in 2024? Ms. Palmer suggested she would capture all of the ideas, meet with the subcommittee and come up with the top three ideas to recommend to the full Commission to act on first. The end goal should be that more people are educated and informed about our environment and sustainability. Education and advocacy would be a great role for a citizen commission. The goal of the subcommittee group will be to flush out how this can be accomplished. Discussion focused on volunteer efforts and engaging the community. The idea of creating a campaign with a fun tag line was mentioned again as a way to spark opportunities to engage youth and the community as a whole.

2. **Document the lesser known and unique aspects of Lee's Summit history.**

Past discussion was in support of creation and consistent updates for a centralized directory for Lee's Summit history. The first action item could be learning about existing stories that are documented and catalog them. The Commission's role will be to augment gaps without duplicating good work that is currently happening. A separate action item could be to create a process for local historians to share the underrepresented stories that are undocumented. Another action item can be creating a process or program to do a video capture and finding the right location to display. The work for 2024 will be to make connections with cultural organizations.

3. **Conduct a needs assessment for dedicated arts and culture spaces.**

Ms. Palmer recommended starting with this objective first as a Commission. First action items should be gathering information, start talking to partners, making connections with cultural organizations, and to create an inventory of existing gaps. The Commission's work for 2024 is to start to make connections with cultural organizations. Ms. Masters suggested changing the objective wording to say arts & cultural spaces and assets.

4. **Build relationships with local & regional cultural partners.**

Defining exactly what "Cultural" means is needed to create a foundation to build upon. Ms. Masters mentioned a diagram when creating the Cultural Commission that will be of help.



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Flush out a version even if high level to go into the presentation to Council. There was discussion around recycling and making people aware of recycling resources within the City. The dumpsters from DT market plaza are being brought down to the Resource Recovery Park. The waste from the project was recycled and will spearhead conversation to make people aware.

5. Identify necessary policies & guiding documents that can support the City's implementation of a robust arts & cultural program.

The staff will compile a summary of current policies and plans to provide a starting point on what exists in order to create a Public Arts policy. Staff has already completed research of peer cities and existing best practices. The Commission will review the summary and recommend a Public Arts policy to City Council for adoption. Ms. Masters said that creation of the Public Art Policy is urgent since the call for art for the iconic piece in the Market Plaza was just released. This is the ultimate task of the group since it will be a guidebook.

7. Discuss Homework and Approach for April Meeting

Homework is to carve and polish the presentation for City Council. Chair Eames and a small group of the Commissioners will meet with Mayor Baird in April to update him on what the Cultural Commission is focusing on. A polished and easy to read document will go in the packet focused on the Cultural Commission plans and goals moving forward.

8. Market Gateway Sculpture Piece

Ms. Masters stated that there is a Call for Qualifications for the Market Gateway Sculpture piece. In the process of forming the Artist Selection Committee for this piece as well as other smaller public art pieces. Staff would like the recommending body for the Artist Selection Committee to be the Cultural Commission. The three Commissioners serving on this selection committee will be Commissioner Eames, Commissioner Thill, and Commissioner Keshner.

A motion was made by Chair Eames, seconded by Commissioner Allen, to add Commissioner Keshner to the Downtown Market Plaza Entryway Artist Selection Committee. The motion carried by a 10-0 vote (Commissioners Basham and Townsend absent).

9. Roundtable and Staff Updates

Shannon McGuire gave an update on the Market Plaza. Currently have roads closed down behind University Health building to work on storm sewers. 2nd Street will be closed down in March. The Plaza area will close April 1st. Once Green Street closes it will be permanent.

10. Adjourn

Chair Eames adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.