

Lee's Summit Arts Council

August 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – Nick called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Members present – Nick Parker, Bob Jones (retiring), Christina Phillips, Gary Fruits (retiring), Jane Bolin, Jazz Rucker (new), Jeannine Akins, Jennifer De Luca, Jody Fristoe, John Hardesty, John Schuler, Kemp Strickler (new). Members absent – Brenda Harris, Jen Steller.

Approval of February Minutes – Gary Fruits moved to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2020 meeting. Jeannine Akins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Green Street Facility Presentation - Mayor Bill Baird and City Manager Steve Arbo showed slides of architectural conceptions of the proposed Farmers' Market and performance venue spaces which will be constructed on the east side of Green Street (across from the current City Hall and parking garage), between Second and Third Streets. The project also includes the redesign of the public space in front of City Hall. Several parcels of land were purchased from individual owners in order to create the entire area planned for development. In addition to the Farmers' Market, there will be a Conservatory designed as a multi-use performance/meeting space, with the possibility of a boutique hotel, apartments, restaurants, a bistro/coffee shop, and multiple inviting public spaces designed for performance/art events/dining, and acting to attract people to explore the charm of downtown Lee's Summit. All of the drawings exhibit the cohesiveness of the proposed construction with the architecture of the existing City Hall/Parking facility, making this a focal point of downtown.

Mayor Baird indicated that the City's attorney is working diligently to create and coordinate RFQ's (Requests for qualification) so that the City can interview prospective developers and choose the one(s) who best align with the City's vision. At this point, it seems that this entire process will require approximately 8-10 months to complete. Prior to construction of any buildings, there is a substantial amount of infrastructure which must be put in place. In an attempt to get the public art conversation started during the design process, a number of questions were asked by Council members, including what types of performances are anticipated and in what areas could various forms of art be exhibited. Mayor Baird was quick to say that he and the City Council greatly value the input of the LS Arts Council going forward during this project.

Budget Review – Glenda Masters presented her records of the current budget which indicate that due to the covid-19 situation, no money has been spent. The grants which were previously approved will be disbursed to the recipients in the very near future. Gary Fruits made the motion, which was seconded by Jeannine Akins, to approve the budget as presented. The approval was unanimous.

New Business –

- a. Nick Parker indicated that the public event which was begun last year to celebrate and honor a local "champion of the arts" will probably have to be cancelled this year. He suggested that perhaps we could still choose an honoree anyway, and also said that re-inviting people to vote for their favorite sculpture on our Sculpture Walk would keep the 'art conversation' going. In addition, he supports a social media focus through possible on-line live events or videos which will be planned by him and a Council subcommittee.

- b. Glenda Masters is proposing to have Lee's Summit Arts and Culture week, Oct. 9-18, 2020. This will involve reaching out to artists and businesses to participate in and program small events. She will enlist the assistance of Lee's Summit Tourism to post these events on the Explorer LS Calendar.

There is also a project called "Art in Storefront" in which a UMKC art student is working toward getting his work displayed in the Summit Fair Shopping Center. The question of "What other spaces are available in the city for this type of potential exhibition?" was raised.

- c. With the retirement of Bob Jones, John Schuler was suggested to fill the position of Treasurer on the Council. The motion to confirm this was made by Christina Phillips and seconded by Gary Fruits. Approval was unanimous.

Old Business – Glenda reminded everyone that the LSAC has been given a gift of \$5,000 with which to purchase a piece of public art. This would include the six pieces that are currently part of our Sculpture Walk. Since the price of all of those pieces is above \$5,000, there was some discussion as to possible ways for the Council to raise the remaining funds needed to finalize the purchase.

The call for new artists to compete in the 2021 Sculpture Walk will be made in December and remain open until February. Glenda also said that the CID is interested in adding more concrete pads in order to expand the size of the Sculpture Walk.

Roundtable – Each Council member 'checked in' with comments about what they have been doing during this unusual time. Our newest members, Jazz Rucker and Kemp Strickler, were welcomed by everyone, and 'good-bye's' were said and there was acknowledgement of the long and valuable service to the Council and community of Bob Jones and Gary Fruits as they retire.

Adjournment – After noting that our next scheduled Council meeting is September 28, 2020, Nick adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully,
John Hardesty
LSAC Secretary