

Lee's Summit Arts Council

March 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – Nick called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Members present – Nick Parker, Jane Bolin, Jazz Rucker, Jeannine Akins, Jennifer de Luca, Jody Fristoe, John Hardesty, John Schuler, Kemp Strickler. Also present: Diane Forte, City Council liaison and Glenda Masters, Cultural Arts Manager. Members absent – Christina Phillips, Jeff Bertocin.
- II. **Approval of January Minutes** – Jeannine Akins moved to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting. John Schuler seconded the motion. Motion Passed.
- III. **Budget Report** – With the exception of the \$250 sponsorship given to the Lee's Summit Historical Society for their City Hall exhibit in conjunction with the Missouri Bicentennial celebration, there have been no changes to the current budget.
- IV. **Presentations** –
 - a. Crystal Weber, Assistant City Manager of Operations, informed the Council about the April 6, 2021 ballot initiative concerning a shift of a portion of the City's property tax revenue from Debt Service to the General Operating Fund. The language on the ballot makes it appear that there will be a ten cent increase in property taxes. However, there will be no increase, rather there will be a ten cent decrease in the total amount apportioned to Debt Service, and that will provide the ten cent increase to the General Fund. This change will not affect the City's bond rating, and it will enable the City to devote supplemental funds to three areas of focus: 1) Municipal Building maintenance, 2) Technology (additional touch-point digital capabilities), and 3) Workforce Investment (attracting and retaining top-notch employees. Ms. Weber requested the Council's assistance in informing the public that this ballot initiative will NOT create an increase in property taxes.
 - b. Ben Martin, Chairman of Missouri Citizens for the Arts, requested the Council's collaboration in the advocacy of the Arts as he presented a comprehensive summary of opportunities available to us to actively take part in this work. He emphasized the importance of the Arts by noting that they enrich the American economy, offer solutions for rural America, offer cost-effective health treatments that work, improve education, and offer financial net gains for government, as more tax revenue is earned than what is spent by the government on the Arts.

The five entities below are primary to arts advocacy:

The National Arts Action Summit which will be held virtually on April 5-9.

<https://artsu.americansforthearts.org/naas-2021-home>

Missouri Citizens for the Arts

<https://mo4arts.org/>

Arts KC – regional arts council

<https://artskc.org/>

Arts Are Education

<https://www.artsareeducation.org/>

Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

<https://www.moaae.org/home>

Mr. Martin also addressed issues of concern such as the wait to see what Biden administration funding for the Natl. Endowment for the Arts will be; what total funding for the Missouri Arts Council will be, other than the \$4.8 million flat amount that Gov. Parsons has recommended; the impact of the pandemic on Arts institutions; protecting arts education from cuts due to the pandemic, especially in reduced revenues for school districts, perceived need for remediation, and the large expense of PPE equipment for arts classrooms and activities; and, finally, what level of funding will occur for the Missouri Fine Arts and Scholars Academies.

In response to Kemp Strickler's question about who we should reach out to for support, Martin suggested various members of the State Legislature, along with a recommendation to make cell calls, emails, and have zoom and FaceTime meetings with school boards, city councils, mayors, the Governor, and members of Congress. In other words, he is asking each of us individually and collectively to take action and make our voices heard in advocacy of the Arts.

V. New Business – None

VI. Old Business –

- a. Nick Parker advised that he will be contacting each Council member with regard to selecting names of people who we feel would be possible Board members of the new 501c3 arts organization. Glenda reminded us that April 9 is the deadline for new Cultural Arts Grant applications.
- b. The first of the newly selected sculptures, "Silica Rose", has already been installed across the street from City Hall. The sculpture currently outside The Stanley sustained damage recently, and Sporting KC has agreed to install a temporary sculpture of a player for the next month or so. The piece at 3rd Street Social will be removed by the end of March; most of the current sculptures will be removed and new selections installed by the end of April.

VII. Roundtable Jody Fristoe informed everyone that the Summit Art Plein Air Festival will occur on Saturday, April 10, at the Crestview Dairy Events center from 9:00-6:00, and will include approximately 50 artists.

VIII. Adjournment - Our next scheduled meeting is April 26, 2021. Nick adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectively,
John Hardesty
LSAC Secretary