

Lee's Summit Arts Council

February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – Nick called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Members present – Nick Parker, Christina Phillips, Jane Bolin, Jazz Rucker, Jeannine Akins, Jennifer de Luca, Jody Fristoe, John Hardesty, John Schuler, Kemp Strickler, and Diane Forte, City Council liaison. Members absent – Jeff Bertoncin.
- II. **Approval of January Minutes** – Jane Bolin moved to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2020 meeting. Jeannine Akins seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.
- III. **Budget Report** – The Lee's Summit Historical Society has submitted a sponsorship request to the Arts Council in conjunction with their desire to mount a special exhibit in City Hall commemorating the Missouri Bicentennial celebration. The exhibit will consist of photos, maps and artifacts from each of six time periods of development in Lee's Summit from 1820 to the present and will be on display from April 1 to May 31.

John Schuler moved to approve this request and Christina Phillips seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

IV. **New Business** –

- a. **Comprehensive Plan, Cultural Amenities and Facilities Presentation.** Josh Johnson, Assistant Director of Plan Services gave a presentation of the LS Ignite Comprehensive Plan concerning the cultural amenities and facilities aspects of the Plan, seeking feedback from the Council and bringing us 'up to speed' on the current status of the process of addressing the quality of life in our community. The first phase was "seeing where we are now", and we are now in the second phase, "community feedback". A community engagement survey was provided several months ago, and Josh says that they've had more than 1,000 responses which are helping the team in crafting and adopting the Plan.

One of the major factors going forward is Property Reserve, Inc.'s (PRI) release of some 5,400 acres of land for development. These properties could possibly lend themselves to the creation of activity centers, and Nick Parker raised the question as to whether there has been any discussion of having art be part of this development.

Kemp Strickler asked about the community engagement survey response rankings as to what people feel are the most important aspects of the Plan. Mr. Johnson responded by expressing that many initiatives will happen depending on budget and who the individuals are who will be leading the various groups in charge. City Council is expected to approve the final Comprehensive Plan in April. Then the implementation process will begin at which time tasks will be assigned and prioritized. The Council thanked Mr. Johnson for his informative presentation.

- b. **Arts Council Work Plan (Nonprofit Arts Formation).** Nick and Glenda gave a brief historical review of the Arts Council's ongoing discussion of the need for forming a nonprofit 501c3 arts organization. They reminded the Council that this has been a

cyclical topic for numerous years and ultimately led to the creation of the City's Cultural Arts Manager position. Nick reported that he and Glenda met with Mayor Baird, City Manager Steve Arbo and Assistant City Manager Mark Dunning to formally present the concept of forming a nonprofit arts organization with the specific purpose to manage the Council's Cultural Arts Grant program and to fundraise to support the purchase of public art. Mayor Baird expressed his support for the proposed nonprofit. It was agreed that an organizing committee be formed to create the organization which includes Glenda (who will serve in an advisory capacity); Nick Parker, Jen De Luca, Jane Bolin, and John Schuler from the Arts Council; and Trisha Drape, Jason Norbury, and Reggie Gray for the community at large. Feedback from citizens in the Ignite Plan process has also given credence to establishing such an entity. Once put in place, the 501c3 would assume responsibility for administration of the current Cultural Arts Grants program as well as fundraising for public art purchases. Nick requested that Council members create a list of advocates who would be effective members of the new entity's forming committee or Board of Directors, with an anticipated launch in the Spring of 2022.

- c. With the implementation of the new LS Strategic Plan, it is anticipated that there will be some realigning of various City Boards and Commissions to align with the strategic plan's primary focus areas. One of these realignments may include merging together the Beautification Commission with Arts Council, perhaps by the end of the fiscal year in June. It has been proposed that the name be changed to the Arts and Cultural Commission to open the possibility of a much larger scope of creating art and beauty in the Lee's Summit community.

V. Old Business - The Arts Council has made application to the Missouri Bicentennial Commission to have three upcoming events in Lee's Summit as officially designated Bicentennial events. They include the following:

- 1) Show Me Lee's Summit Historical Exhibit - LS Historical Society, sponsor
- 2) Missouri: People, Places and Culture – Summit Art Photographers, sponsor
- 3) Missouri Flora and Fauna (Ten.) – Summit Art Fine Artists, sponsor

With the Commission's approval these events will be publicized on their website and can use their official logo with all of each event's publicity.

Adjournment – Our next scheduled meeting is Mar. 22, 2021. Nick adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully,
John Hardesty
LSAC Secretary