



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission

February 7, 2023 at 6:00pm

Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm.

In attendance: Val Toukatly, Debra Smith, Pam Myers-Morgan, Megan Brabec, Morgan Santos, Aimee Gigandet, Joshua Skovlund. Two members of the public, Stella and Burt, attended.

New Business

- Last meeting's minutes were reviewed. Pam noted a correction that the RFP notes should be labeled as being about the Library art project.
- The votes from the unofficial January meeting were held. The commission voted to approve a motion to replace Onica Berger on the Commission.
- The vote to move meeting times to 6:00pm was also approved.
- We welcomed new member Joshua Skovlund to the commission. He is a Newmarket resident with a background in media and marketing, photography, and has worked as a medic. The rest of the board introduced themselves as well.
- There was some confusion regarding the Library exterior project by the Library Trustees board. Since they are in midst of replacing the librarian as well as other priorities, they voted not to assist with funding the proposed project. This commission's plan was to be one of several sources of funding the quoted cost of \$13,000. ACT recognized that this would become a long-term commitment for the board. Pam expressed that in addition to the Elm Street project, Pocket Park, and Little Galleries, we should not make the commitment to solely lead the project at this time. It was generally agreed that there may be a better time to approach this in the future. Megan made a motion to table the Library project for now, Val seconded, it was unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Little Art Galleries: Aimee announced that the Art Academy program at the Rec is sold out, and the teacher is looking forward to displaying the students' work. Debra recapped the ideas we had discussed for the galleries: Firehouse at Pocket Park and Crayon Box at the Rec. The goal is to have them finished in May of this year.

- Pocket Park: Pam has been doing research on the history of the park but it has been hard to come by details. Burt offered some suggestions of how she could track the information down. Pam has also measured the mural on the back wall and made a mock-up of what we could potentially do with “Artist Among Us” panels. Aimee asked if the panels are waterproof; Deb spoke about the “billboard” approach that we are looking into that would not deteriorate like the existing mural. Pam asked about the budget for this, and Debra stated that the Galleries will be donated and the printing of the panels should be a reasonable cost for us to raise. Stella suggested that we reach out to Michelle from Crackskulls for connections with local artists. Pam made a motion to move forward with the current proposal of theme and design, Morgan seconded and it was approved.
 - Joshua asked if there are opportunities for sculptural artists to display their work. Pam mentioned there may be a platform/space in existence that we could look into. It may also be possible to have sculpture in Arbor Park in the future.
 - Debra suggested we individually take ownership of different projects and reach out to get things moving forward. Morgan and Debra to spearhead Pocket Park — Debra to focus on logistics. Val to take on Art Galleries with Debra. Next steps are bringing the proposals to her woodworking contact.
 - We discussed scheduling. Aimee mentioned that the last week of May is Rec Connect and the Garden Tour is June 17. We want these projects unveiled shortly before the tour, maybe the Friday night before. Debra asked Joshua to take point on marketing for unveiling events. She suggested getting in touch with Tim Cremmins. Joshua proposed that we make the unveiling a party of some sort. Aimee brought up that closing the street would be expensive, and that ACT could fundraise at the Backyard Bash, first Friday of August. Megan suggested we discuss further at our next meeting; the Backyard Bash meetings are the 1st Wednesday of every month, and ACT can attend. Aimee will let us know if those meetings will be available on Zoom.
- 300th Celebration: Pam reported that there is a non-profit being founded to organize and take care of the events. There is not yet a theme. At the next meeting, Pam will address what ACT wants to contribute. We would like to unveil the mural, and Pam is also looking into obtaining some historical gears for display. Our calendar idea could also be a part of this, and include 300th celebration events.
- It was discussed that we are a part of the NH Mills Scenic Byway, which runs from Exeter to Somersworth. We will have a sign soon to commemorate this. Burt mentioned that this is a DOT program, and that it could incorporate a historic silver mine along 108 in Newmarket. This could be something to consider for future tourism pitches.
- Arts in the Park: Aimee will bring this year’s dates to the next meeting.
- Riverfront Committee: Chair, Sam, will come to our April meeting to discuss their future plans.
- Elm St mural: Debra’s next steps are to speak to Chinburg about our plans and see if they will contribute funds. Also discussed the possibility of a “buy a brick”

fundraiser, where the caps are made from the bricks. She also mentioned that we could consider using one panel to announce events, etc, though Aimee said there is a signage project like that in the works. Based on this information, Commission agreed not to include Events Billboard within Mural.

- Strategic plan: Debra spoke with Steve and Bart, who feel we are on the right track. Bart suggested strengthening language to relate it back to the town as a whole.
- Newsletter: We reviewed Debra's update. Discussed taking out the invitation for commentary on the strategic plan, just having a link to the document. Revised version will be sent out to run ASAP.
- Logo update: We need to update logo to reflect name change. Deb will share EPS files with Aimee and Joshua for more consideration.

Megan made a motion to adjourn, Pam seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Our next meeting will be held on March 7th.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Toukatly, Secretary