

Meeting Minutes: May 14th, 2018

I. Call to order – 5:38 p.m.

- II. **Commissioners present:** Portia Fields-Anderson, Mark Stone, Sabrina Jefferson, Mike McGuinness, Dr. Carl Byerly, Maria Bermudez, Judy Wilson. Absent: Owen Edwards, Robert Karazim, Dwayne Anthony Lyons. [Fields-Anderson & Stone exited during meeting]

Community members present: Amy Hammond from Ennis Center; Janiece Gage, Pontiac Resident.

- III. **Agenda** approved unanimously. Moved by Portia Fields-Anderson, seconded Dr. Byerly.

- IV. **March 2018 Minutes** for Approved: moved by Portia Fields-Anderson, seconded Judy Wilson

- V. **Chair's Report** – Mike McGuinness – Thank you to all who participated in producing and attending Pontiac's Inaugural *Arts & Culture Crawl*

VI. **Old Business:**

A. Pontiac Arts & Culture Crawl – Successful PAC Event. Grateful for all the help with A&CC; debrief meeting taking place 5/15/18 at Alley Cat, feedback forms were disseminated; JWilson requests businesses and artists receive; RVPorath requests they be sent to each commissioners 10 guests. Discussion: strong branding, caution to not dilute branding around the Crawl; MBermudez – light attendance at start; MMcGuinness – reached zenith 6:45; RVP- appreciated slow start as there was still tasks to complete; JW - \$94 personally raised from button sales, MMcG – reinvest in buttons, or PAC banner, leave to JW & RVP discretion. Dr.B – involving school youth was effective/impactful, brought families to downtown, MMcG – created sense of ownership; Over 120 attended planning sessions

B. Gateway Welcome Signs Design Comm Update: RVPorath – awaiting response from Mayor or contact person at REDICO regarding appropriate contacts for next steps, MMcGuinness asked RVPorath to make another request; Auch agree to participate – brief but reverence both to optimize design feedback.

C. Summer Concert Series: MStone report DA-Lyons suggested 6/16, but may conflict with Jackson 5 event. DrByerly met with Mayor & DALyons- Receptive to idea, more time needed to prepare – tent needs to be confirmed; funds would need to be secured; Discussion – vision of series already negated due to calender; MStone – want to produce one this summer with focus on youth event; school ends 6/19, thus June was targeted; MStone will keep PAC updated

D. OU/Pontiac Initiative Status Update: MStone reported – goal is to grow OU involvement, specifically his arts department colleagues. Currently we've involved Sean Dobbins, he's enthusiastic, has ideas. Recent performance at OU geared toward youth went well, Mayor read letter from Jones family member.

E. Canvas Pontiac: Call for Art is out, deadline 5/27/18. Spread the word. Event to take place mid to late June.



F. Dream Cruise: McGuinness deemed liaison, attended planning meeting 5/14/18. Pontiac Power Week 8/11 through weekend of 8/18; tentative maps; he reported on arts crawl and resulting community engagement, suggested they look to it as a model; Jonathan Witz proposed arts crawl artists involvement in downtown thoroughfare; McGuinness drafting proposal for their consideration; call for art(ists) has not been disseminated; Mike suggests two-prong approach – ¹. PAC mount a volunteer push, nudge toward local arts community ². Inspire planners to re-think development with regard to involving arts community that may result increased downtown foot-traffic; Music fest at Strand, 9/22/18, free for P residents, will happen, paid for by Dream Cruise; MStone inquired re: how to get funds for concert series; MBermudez – discussion of low-rider show

G. Status of City Hall monthly PAC displays – Art Fish Fun for June; perhaps fishing pole and tackle box. JWilson offered to help.

VII. **New Business**

A. PAC Resolution Celebrating Pontiac Theatre IV's Fiftieth will be recognized at PAC June meeting.

B. Art Fish Fun June 9 @ Beaudette Park – PAC will have table there, request for Arts Commissioners to volunteer – Mstone will be there with his children, RVPorath, JWilson (early) Discussion- last year pictures displayed on umbrella and attendees asked to use our chalk although space not available to draw; promote Pontiac Power week; MBermudez suggested Pontiac Toyota Club drive through park and will follow up, also arts crawl *Creative Cans* if available. McGuinness suggests *Follow the Feather* signs; RVPorath asked about PAC sign

C. Aaron Perry Park – Leaders of the Future received \$100K grant, requested mural of McGuinness a la paint by number template in unused shelter there, also two large concrete spheres – Community Mural activity suggested. Akzo Nobel sponsoring entity of grant.

D. St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital requested student assistance with artwork representing the four seasons to be displayed in hospital. McGuinness will copy JWilson in email requests for further details.

E. Halloween Town Festivities – planning initiated – multiple activities to brand Pontiac as Halloweentown; Main Street Oakland County's John Bry is current organizer of official events with 9/30 Cemetery Walk as Kick-off event. Discussion: RVPorath suggested Dios de los Muertos, MBermudez added these celebrations consist of tombstones and altars erected in memory of loved ones who have transitioned; Theater IV costume characters as element of festivities

VIII. **Public Comment:**

A. JGage, Pontiac resident – inquired about PAC member application process. McGuinness referred her to Mayor; JG surveyed attendees – positive feedback “do more”; met numerous potential arts candidates, will send their information to MMcG; inquired about garage sale atop Phoenix Center as fundraiser, Mayor Waterman shared that it is not possible, structurally unsound, no utilities. Mayor added – PAC membership is full until staggered terms end.

B. AHammond, Assist. To Director, Ennis Center – shared information about program *Fostering Creativity* – foster programs, free groups ages 5-21; brochure shared with information on multi-modal therapeutic programming. Mayor invited AH to communicate with her office regarding collaboration in



service to Pontiac youth. AH will discuss with Director of program, and report back to Mayor. AH invited commissioners to send interested instructors their way.

IX. Announcements

a. Arts Crawl debriefing meeting at Alley Cat Café, May 15, 6pm

b. Next PAC meeting – 6/11/18

c. Additional announcements: JWilson receiving WSU Art Ed/Art Therapy Dept. Alumni Award for Community Service, presented 6/1 at WSU student exhibit opening; MBermudez – *Seussical the Musical* performed 5/18-20, four showings, and she has a bit-part in *Street Car Named Desire* to be performed Friday, Saturdays and Sundays, 6/15 – 7/1. Summer school program at PAE – seeking content from community; Mayor Waterman – kudos to Arts and Crawl team, very pleased, wonderful coordinating by Mike and Renee; She'll get filled in re: Dream Cruise adding each year we try to do something different – this year includes craft beer tent, food trucks, curbside service and number of other groups hosting activities; PAC pitching activities with arts component 1. Summer in Parks – seek sponsors for two events, car groups trying to fund something for all residents/cruise goers to enjoy. 2. Discussion of music festival at Strand; State of City Address – 6/4 at Crofoot – doors at 6, 7:00 program free and open to public. Certificates will be awarded for Neighborhood Empowerment; After Glow 8:30

VII. ADJOURNMENT Moved by Renee Voit-Porath, seconded by Judy Wilson. Carried unanimously.