



Pontiac Arts Commission

Draft Meeting Minutes Monday, May 13, 2019

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chair Mike McGuinness at 5:34 p.m.
- II. Commissioners Present: Maria Bermudez, Dr. Carl Byerly, Robert Karazim, Dwayne Anthony Lyons, Mike McGuinness, Prof. Mark Stone, Renee Voit-Porath, Judy Wilson
Commissioners Absent: Owen Edwards, Portia Fields-Anderson
Community Members Present: Patrizia Makohon, Ryan Tavarez, Charlene Dwyer, Maureen Dunwoodie, Ted Castillo, Melanie Rutherford, Michele Ramo, Heidi Hepler-Ramo
- III. Prepared agenda reviewed, and additions made, by Commissioners present.
- IV. Old Business:
 - a. Commission 2019 meeting schedule adopted by the Commission late last year was shared again to ensure remaining Commissioners were aware of the remaining 2019 schedule.
 - b. A continuation of past meetings' business about community murals progress updates led to a discussion about channeling graffiti artists' talents into constructive public art opportunities. A task force, essentially a subcommittee of the Commission, was formed and Commissioners Wilson, Voit-Porath, Bermudez, and Karazim, as well as community member Ryan Tavarez, volunteered to pursue this task force and report back next month.
 - c. Discussion on the successfully concluded 2019 Pontiac Arts Crawl was undertaken. Commissioner Wilson documented over 4,000 attendees, and noted that over 5,000 is the more accurate total when considering affiliated concerts that also took place that evening. A celebration recap of the event is taking place May 14 at Pontiac's Little Arts Theatre and all are invited, shared Chair McGuinness. Commissioner Stone expressed his strong disappointment with communications he received regarding the Crawl, and that the Arts Commission was inadequately emphasized in some news coverage. Commissioner Lyons relayed his and the Mayor's dissatisfaction over some promotional materials insufficiently emphasizing the Arts Commission role. Extensive discussion ensued. Strong consensus among the Commissioners that the event overall was a big success and the Arts Commission should aim to continue an active role in helping make the 2020 Crawl happen.
 - d. Canvas Pontiac 2019 Call for Artists is still open, running from April 1 through May 31. Further information and submissions are at www.canvaspontiac.com
 - e. Chairman Mike McGuinness term is concluding this month and today was his final meeting. He thanked the Commission and the community for the opportunity to lead, serve, and support the reestablishment of this Commission. With that, there should be at least two openings on the Commission for community members could apply. The form is available online on the city's website and hard copies were shared if anyone was interested. A thorough discussion was continued from past months' meetings about the path forward for determining leadership of the Commission. It was established that it shall be a primary item of business for the June 2019 meeting and that Co-Chair Carl Byerly would help prepare the agenda and facilitate for that meeting in the interim.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Lyons shared that the next Soul Food concert activities would be June 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Pontiac Youth Recreation Center.
- b. Hauntiac 2018, done in part by Arts Commission, was awarded by Main Street Oakland County as a Game Changer event at their Main Event ceremonies last week. Commissioner Voit-Porath reported on the ceremony and the significance of the recognition.
- c. The annual Art Fish Fun Festival is taking place in Beaudette Park Saturday, June 8. Outgoing Commissioner McGuinness expressed his commitment to volunteer with the Arts Commission presence there, as it had been previously committed to the Oakland County Water Resources Commission and The Art Experience that we would participate. Commissioner Stone tentatively committed to help volunteer as well.
- d. Commissioner Wilson updated that she will be reaching out to the Mayor about a potential funding opportunity for arts initiatives of which Commissioner Wilson had previously shared with her, to receive clearer guidance on the most effective path forward for it.

VI. Community members Patrizia Makohon, Melanie Rutherford, Charlene Dwyer, and Ryan Tavarez spoke during Public Comment.

VII. The following announcements were made:

- a. Pontiac Arts Crawl Recap Gathering: Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 pm, PLAT (47 N. Saginaw)
- b. Canvas Pontiac Submissions Deadline: May 31, 2019 www.canvaspontiac.com
- c. Art Fish Fun Festival in Pontiac's Beaudette Park: Saturday, June 8, 2019
- d. Next Arts Commission Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2019 at Pontiac City Hall
- e. Soul Food Concert at Pontiac Youth Recreation Center, Saturday, June 29, 4 to 6 p.m.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Minutes drafted and submitted by outgoing Chair Mike McGuinness.