



## Meeting minutes - Monday, April 11, 2022 - Meeting called to order 6:30 pm

- I.** ROLL CALL: In attendance - Commissioners Irma Hayes, Dr. Carl Byerly, Judy Wilson, and via Zoom Maria Bermudez. Nominees: Karen Kobylak, Dr. Tia Harvey, Quincy Stewart, Bruce Cobb, Ryan Tavaréz, and via Zoom: Alex Resnik
- Mayor attended to welcome seven new Commissioners and thank returning Commissioners for work toward building lineup of arts events and strengthening arts and culture in Pontiac. April 27 will be swearing in ceremony at Alley Cat Café.
- Brief introduction of Arts Commissioners and Nominees (soon to be sworn in)
- II.** APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JWilson motioned, CByerly seconded
- III.** APPROVAL OF AGENDA CByerly motioned, JWilson seconded Changes to agenda – remove duplicate Bonded (bullet 3) move Bonded (bullet 6) to replace it. Add Art Crawl between Bonded and Latin Fest. Add dates 9/9 and 9/10 to Hip Hop Conference.
- JWilson motioned, CByerly seconded
- IV.** OLD BUSINESS
- a. Update Status of All Events
- Partnerships – Jon Harris; Centro Multicultural La Familia; Arts collective PZero for Wide Track exhibit; Steering committee of local musicians for Hip Hop Conference; Strand heater; Pontiac Community Foundation as fiduciary; City Council in Lawn Chair Concert Series; United Shore Mortgage; DTW; Canterbury Village providing list of over 100 food vendors to sell food during three weekends of artmaking for Wide Track Exhibit. If you get questions on any of this have them email [pontiacartists@gmail.com](mailto:pontiacartists@gmail.com). PAC is advisory committee in nature, but it's currently working to produce events to get artists engaged in the process with goal of the artists learning to take ownership in future. Attracting people to downtown Pontiac through these events is strategy to encourage more of same by others, generate interest in and visibility of arts and culture, and to get the people that work in Pontiac to play in Pontiac.
  - Wide Track Art Installation – 9300 – 17,800 cars travel loop and drivers see vacant land, thus idea for art installation. IHayes shared map of tentative placement of artwork. IHayes is communicating with property owners, secured sponsorship from Bensons Lumber of Pontiac who will be donating lumber for artists to paint on, and they offered help with art installation. Artwork will be created by artists in Phoenix Plaza three weekends prior to June 10 event and materials will be stored in adjacent garage thanks to permission given by owners, Dirt Realty. Estimated volume of work is 30 pieces. Call for art will go out end of this week [April 16]. P-zero, El Piqasso & Boricuahoni Entertainment collaborating on production of this exhibit.
  - Bonded! Jon Harris
    - June 17, 18 & 19 @ Harris' new gallery at 46 N. Saginaw & 17 N. Lawrence (Spilling into the Street) and at 33 Box. Harris' show attracted great notoriety in Detroit, 2021, 5000 in attendance. Harris is currently showing his work at Christies in New York city.
  - Art Crawl – July 22, 2022 3-10PM. First planning meeting was Mar. 30, 15 volunteers



attended. Next planning meeting is April 20, then May 11. Discussion of how to attract musicians to register. THarvey will generate a Google form for registration to ease collection of artists contacts. JWilson will send her logos for the form.

- Latin Fest July 23 –
- Flagstar Strand Marque Concert - *Libertad, Sabor y Sonido*
  - Artists to date are:
    - Headlining: Sammy Deleon y su Orquesta
    - Mariachi Femenol
    - Alina Morr Urban Tropical
  - Dorsay Culinary providing small plates
  - Cooking and spoken word in Hidden River Park
  - Stay tuned for more developments!
- Lawn Chair Concert Series first concert is June 2 – City Council members are partnering to help make concerts happen in their districts. Goal is to schedule a concert embedded in each district, to get guests to drive through and get to know the beauty of Pontiac neighborhoods. Once this is achieved additional concert dates / locations will be considered. Performances and locations are fluid at this point, and subject to change. Dates are:
  - 6/2 on City Hall lawn (District 7)
  - 6/16 location tbd
  - 6/30 location tbd
  - working to identify musicians to schedule four more and working on logistics of locations to accommodate stage setup.

Tentative ideas – THarvey would like to implement procedure to engage performance artists from each district, and recommended reaching out to Rolando Ybarra of the band *Pancho Villa's Skull*. They performed at 2019 art crawl. JWilson suggested reaching out to residents through each Council member.

MBermudez will talk to Cantu about poetry and report back to IHayes. And MBermudez asked about bicycle run meeting at Beaudette, ride around city and return to park to play music and hang out. JWilson asked about participant sign up. MBermudez will talk to person who has done so in past.

Quincy Stewart suggested concert at Mill Dam / Beaudette Park. Other ideas Oakland Park (Glenwood / Montcalm) as last location, because being renovated. IHayes secured very good deal on a 15' x 20' stage to be used for each concert. Have musicians come to IHayes (email her), communicate their fee, and then she can determine who can perform relative to available budget.

- City Institute – Pontiac Tours May 14 1<sup>st</sup> Tour. Tours of Pontiac highlights in city. QStewart accepted invitation to lead a future tour, because he knows the rich history.
  - HipHop Conference – 9/9 & 10, 2022 Steering Committee has formed; CByerly suggested hosting a “new artist” night. Purpose of conference / Who should attend: record labels, booking agents, a & r promoters, artist managers, music tech companies, producers, publishers, music supervisors, song writers, venue owners, media personnel, DJs, film and video production types. The idea is to bring together to connect, learn and create. There'll be panels, workshops, mixers, mentor sessions and interviews with tastemakers, thought leaders



and industry makers. There'll be five tracks: an artist accelerator, a beat star summit, a label X, a music tech, and an action summit. A conference with mini conferences within it. By day, listen to guest speakers. By night showcase artists. Three phases to cover – old school, new school and future. Many more artists and much more content, including film production panel. Awesome lineup and planning.

- b. Update on Grant Money – JWilson waiting to meet with Alexandra, City grant writer.
- c. Sponsorship Update – IHayes secured multiple sponsors, including: United Wholesale Mortgage, DTE Foundation.
- d. Update on Meetings Attended
  - i. Monthly City Council Meetings – discussion on arts commissioners taking turns attending each city council meeting to update / remind residents of upcoming events. Also, United Shore mortgage offered their communication channels; Community Connect through City of Pontiac who sends out emails to promote same. IHayes said things are happening very quickly right now. New offers and information every day. IHayes thanked JWilson for correspondence responsibilities – minutes, email. Now that we have dates we have news to share. MBermudez said once we get fliers, etc., the council members will help promote to their constituents.
  - ii. Main Street Meetings – PAC should have representation at each meeting.
  - iii. Pontiac Community Impact Partnership Meetings
  - iv. Pastor Jones Committee of 50 Meetings – Irma Hayes attended

All commissioners - please attend meetings and report back to us.

- V. NEW BUSINESS – Discussion of artists database. RTavarez and JWilson will create Google form to disseminate via email asking if you'd like to remain in Arts Commission contacts, and “are you an artist ...” to capture artist contact info. Then make data available online, perhaps from PAC website. AResnick said he has a list to share. QStewart recommended creating booklet/catalogue of local talent to be distributed throughout the city, gaining exposure for artists and performers, and allowing people seeking talent to easily locate them.

Swearing in of Arts Commissioners will take place Wednesday, April 27, 6:30 at Alley Cat.

IHayes will give commissioners access to Arts Commission FB page, allowing them to post / edit. Limit to arts only posts. IHayes also requested if we speak on behalf of PAC in community, please let her know.

- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- VII. ADJOURNMENT – CByerly motioned to adjourn, MBermudez seconded at 7:55

- VIII. NEXT MEETING – Monday, May 9, 2022@ 5:30pm Zoom/In-person Mix