



Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 13, 2023

- I. ROLL CALL – 6:45 Tia Harvey, Mike Martin, Bruce Cobb, Judy Wilson
Absent: Alex Resnick, Irma Hayes, Bianca Tucker, Carl Byerly, Maria Bermudez, Quincy Stewart
- II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – no quorum
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - no quorum
- IV. Old Business – discussion of the following
- V. Vote on new officers – Tia Harvey as Vice President; Michael Martin as Treasurer - no quorum, vote tabled until next meeting
 - a. Status of new Commissioners to fill vacancies. None confirmed at time of meeting. THarvey reached out to Tino and Rolando Ybarra. JWilson reached out to Charlene Dwyer. The hesitation to reach out partly comes from lack of well-designed description of Arts Commissioners’ duties. THarvey will look into who’s producing activities at 17 W Lawrence and Alley Cat, as they may want to join. Discussion of Main Street’s involvement, potential for collaboration.
 - b. Projects –
 - i. Budget – Mike Martin -
 - \$100K promised to Arts Commission – Art Crawl and Lawn Chair Concert Series are the two events discussed at City Hall, nothing defined as of meeting. Arts Commission driven, budgets are needed.
 - Art Crawl 2022: MMartin provided budget *in progress* thus far, \$ 22,450, covers performers, sound, tech, some printing. Much more to be added.
 - What else for PAC to do? Arts Calendar; smaller events; artist database; marketing materials eg. sticker w/PAC logo, leaflets to hand out, car magnet.
 - ii. Art Crawl – potential dates. IHayes proposed July 14, 15, 16. THarvey said AA art fair is 7/15-17, encourages us to consider other dates; Discussion of what’s possible for 2023; JWilson emphasized need for an event producer. MMartin shared that it would require a long / drawn out RFP process, and we should be planning now – urgently need to know how it’s being produced, who is producing; THarvey performed 2022 at south end and it was problematic; too spread out. Keep community driven – provide opportunity for community input and feedback in the visioning / planning process. Discussion around condensing event to smaller area, closing off streets, creating an inviting environment. Consensus leaned in this direction.
 - iii. Lawn Chair Concerts - IHayes submitting proposal to Mayor for *Irma Hayes Productions* producing the LCC series, proposal to be in by mid-February. THarvey would like to see equitable treatment of performers and diverse offerings - more diversity of music style, and for each event to be of same quality with regard to stage, lighting, and sound. Let’s work to make selection process more transparent, engaging Arts Commissioners in planning. MMartin suggested doing a survey, perhaps different



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music style for each concert. THarvey - exposure to different types is part of an experience we want to provide. Consider earlier start times to eliminate need for lighting. BCobb - as we consider talent, we need to concentrate on vetting talent, to ensure patrons will return next year. THarvey – some genre missing – only one Spanish speaking artist; rap; many talented young music producers in Pontiac; classical music – important to recognize family friendly nature of PAC produced events in neighborhoods.

VI. New Business

- a. Bloomberg Philanthropy *Public Art Challenge*. MMartin – City is submitting a proposal this week, focusing on Oakland Park. Functional work of art, Jan. 18 town hall discussion, consensus was to create a structure ie. Pavilion; roof like a skateboard was one idea; seemed to be consensus around themes of nature and indigenous people. RFP for artists – if proposal is accepted and City is invited to go to next round of the process. What will set us apart is unique nature of Pontiac proposal. Can ask for up to \$1 million.
- b. Mural project updates – *Bringing Ro Back to Pontiac* – initiated by investor Ed Davis; location United Way building, corner of Lawrence and Wayne, north wall; funded by fundraising; Randy Yona (building owner) team Ed Davis and his people – Irma Hayes creating proposal for potential sponsors, Phillip Simpson artist (smiles on what used to be whales mural in Detroit) others unknown at this time. Arts Commission – opportunity to sponsor – Irma will present to the arts commission. Start date tbd – targeting building preparation and preliminary work to start in May. Regarding request for support from Arts Commission special project fund, that is committing City of Pontiac to sponsorship. PAC was not part of making decision, so unsure of where funding would come from. More information to follow.
- c. Strategic planning – JWilson pressing to have strategic planning weekend/retreat for arts commissioners to establish mission, vision, 3-5 year plan for the Commission. There needs to be framework established for the work the Arts Commission does. Encourage independent facilitator from outside of Pontiac, to ensure objective process. JWilson reminded Commissioners she sent them Ajara Alghali's CV, and strongly recommends she be considered / sent an RFP when search for facilitator begins.

- ## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS – BCobb running in the *Cupid Run*, Saturday, 2/18, downtown Detroit. CUPID'S UNLIE RUN IS ON A MISSION TO FIND A CURE FOR NEUROFIBROMATOSIS. Race starts at 1:00. Also, BCobb took over operations at Charlene's – serving food full time – appetisers and hibachi style ghost restaurant. Restaurant side (formerly *Slows*) to open in about 40 days. And he's taking over food / beverage operation in theater spaces. Greek Fest March 10 led by sorority/fraternity groups. Valentine day mixer marketed to include *everyone* at Charlene's on website, IG and FB. Encourages cross promotion with other



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community event spaces and restaurants. PLAT 2/14 Alexander Zonjic and Penny Wells.

THarvey – last week Accent Pontiac presented their *Winter Showcase*, grateful for Mayor's presence and introduction. So proud of our kids. Benefit concert, March 5 at Strand 4:00 PM, *Music for the Soul*, Gospel focused event. Performers - Nicole Joseph, Alvin Wattles, Lavonte Heard. JWilson – PLAT Friday 2/17 *Straight Ahead* all female jazz ensemble.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:11

IX. NEXT MEETING – Monday, March 13, 2023 @ 6:30pm