

CITY OF LITTLETON

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2020

The Littleton Arts and Culture Commission met on Thursday, February 13, 2020, in the conference room at the Littleton Museum, 6028 S. Gallup St., Littleton, CO 80120.

THOSE PRESENT: Erin Acheson
Mike Braaten
Kathleen Eckel
Monika Foley
JD McCrumb
Katherine McMurray
Michael Palamara
Greg Reinke

THOSE ABSENT: Michael Hommell

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Nimz, Library Director
Karina Elrod, Council Liaison
Fabby Hillyard, DJC & Associates
Nancy Trimm, Deputy Director
Jennifer Hankinson, Curator of Collections
Moirra Casey, Curator of Exhibits
Jaymes Grundmann, Editor in Chief, The Arapahoe Pinnacle
Kristi Moran, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS BY STAFF AND CONSULTANT

Mr. Tim Nimz had everyone introduce themselves and requested that this meeting be kept informal. Littleton Arts and Culture Commission binders were handed out which have a roster of names and appointments.

3. A BRIEF HISTORY OF LACC AND WHAT TO EXPECT

Mr. Tim Nimz, Library & Museum Director, explained that the LACC Board went from an idea about three years ago to being approved by City Council in January.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE ARTS INDUSTRY

Ms. Fabby Hillyard, DJC & Associates, stated that Cultural Arts are an essential core city service. Regional partners are willing to provide support and the Commission should be a place to share ideas. Ms. Elrod, council liaison, discussed that some of the goals for the Commission as it pertains to the LACC could be economic development, the sense of place for Arts and how the Arts impact quality of life

5. INTRODUCTIONS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Kate Eckel has a background in theater and would like to see an integration of music, theater and dance (all of the arts).

Mr. Mike Braaten is the Deputy Executive Director for South Suburban Parks and Recreation (SSPR).

Mr. Michael Palamara is the Director for the Art and Design Center at Arapahoe Community College.

Ms. Monika Foley has been in retail for over thirty years. She is now the Specialty Leasing and Common Area Creative Director for Gerrity Group which owns and manages the Aspen Grove Shopping Center.

Ms. Katherine McMurray has been a resident of Littleton for thirty-five years. She has sat on the Littleton Fine Arts Board, the Littleton Historical Preservation Board and the Littleton Museum Board. She is involved with the Arapahoe County Cultural Council which is responsible for awarding grants.

Mr. JD McCrumb is a Littleton native and has been the Town Administrator for the Town of Columbine as well as Vice President for the Board of Directors for Littleton Center for Cultural Arts.

Mr. Greg Reinke has fifty-two years of experience in business. He is the co-owner of Reinke Brothers Costume and Halloween shop as well as the President of Historic Downtown Littleton Merchants.

Ms. Erin Acheson is the Executive Director of the Arapahoe Philharmonic which is a community based classical orchestra located in Littleton, Colorado.

6. A CONVERSATION ABOUT ARTS AND CULTURE

Ms. Elrod asked that the Commission consider what Littleton's brand of Arts and Culture defines and why should people come to Littleton.

An informal discussion took place among the Commission members regarding the goals of the Commission, how Arts and Culture impact the community and areas that need attention. Comments included an emphasis on cultural art, how to promote Littleton by defining what Littleton's brand of Arts and Culture is. Commission members indicated that communication is a key component because people are not aware of what happens in Littleton.

Mr. Nimz asked the Commission to define Littleton's Art & Culture in the broadest sense possible.

Commission members came up with ideas such as a small town with a sense of community. People choose to be here because they care about each other and cultural events.

Ms. Hillyard asked for examples of what Littleton offers. Discussions included the Block Party, Western Welcome Week, Candlelight Walk, Zombie Crawl, Holiday's Eve, Scavenger Hunt, art shows. Commission members indicated that the events have not grown with the crowds that attend them. Clarification was added to mean that the same events now have more crowds and that Littleton shouldn't necessarily be making the events bigger. There needs to be a balance between the crowds and the events.

The discussion turned to demographics. Comments included smart, creative people, a safe place that is multigenerational. The 20-30 year old group doesn't live here, but they play here, so Littleton should appeal to everyone.

Mr. Nimz asked the Commission what the goals should be for LACC. Commission members discussed the goal of creating an awareness of culture; Littleton should be the role model in presenting a coordinated effort to bring art to the community.

The Commission exchanged views about retail being an experience and tying in Aspen Grove with the downtown merchants. Other discussions centered around education. Some Commission members feel that the creative industry has been marginalized, so the need to integrate and invigorate is important.

7. MARCH 12 MEETING

The evening ended with Mr. Nimz reminding the Commission that an election of a Chair and Vice Chair will occur at the March meeting. Other things to consider in March will be a review of proposed bylaws, a presentation of Marketing and Branding and Cultural Mapping.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Kristi Moran
Recording Secretary