

CITY OF LITTLETON
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2020

The Littleton Arts and Culture Commission met on Thursday, August 13, 2020, via Zoom.

THOSE PRESENT: Erin Acheson
Mike Braaten, Chair
Kathleen Eckel, Vice Chair
Michael Hommell
JD McCrumb
Michael Palamara

THOSE ABSENT: Monica Foley
Greg Reinke
Katherine McMurray

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Nimz, Library Director
Karina Elrod, Council Liaison
Fabby Hillyard, DJC & Associates
Reid Betzing, City Attorney
Jennifer Hankinson, Curator of Collections
Kristi Moran, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was determined present and the meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 9, 2020 commission meeting were not approved as written.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was not approved as written

4. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no unscheduled public appearances

5. DISCUSSION WITH CITY ATTORNEY REID BETZING ON STATE ORDERS AND CARES FUNDING

- A. Mr. Betzing addressed the Commission regarding the challenges that the Public Health Orders have created and how they impact various venues.

The Commission members discussed the difficulties and the effect that adhering to the Public Health Orders have on the arts and culture communities.

- B. Mr. Betzing informed the Commission that Arapahoe County has fiduciary responsibilities for the CARES Act funding. Although the CARES Act money cannot be used to offset revenues, guidance has been provided as to how nonprofit organizations can benefit from the use of the CARES Act funds.

Ms. Elrod spoke about the differences regarding the resumption of activities versus repositioning. She said it will be important for the commission to refine how things are presented when seeking funds from the CARES Act.

Ms. Hillyard wanted clarification on what kinds of things the CARES Act has funded relating to arts and culture.

Mr. Betzing said he would try to find an answer and share the information with the Commission.

Mr. Braaten mentioned that the Department of Local Affairs is maintaining a google sheet that provides guidance on the CARES Act funding and it might be useful.

Mr. Betzing continued the discussion by speaking about the nonprofit grant program that the City of Littleton has set up. Council will review the grant applications and decide how the money will be spent.

Mr. Nimz reported that three projects (downtown mural, pop-up galleries, and concerts in the streets) will probably not be eligible for funding. There might be a possibility to find other ways to fund some of the projects.

Ms. Elrod talked about the City of Littleton grant money that will be available to business and nonprofit groups as well as property owners.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ms. Hillyard discussed the Arts and Culture Survey. She told the Commission that the response to the survey is statistically viable. She said that the purpose of the survey was to understand current conditions and to propose a way to stabilize the industry. Most of the organizations that responded to the survey have a long community relationship with Littleton.

Mr. Nimz said that the assumption is that the arts and cultural community is in survival mode and coming up with the right project and moving in a timely manner is important.

B. Mr. Nimz informed the Commission that the City Manager has granted permission to move into Stage Two for re-opening. The target date for re-opening the Library and Museum will be in mid-September. There will be an increase in hours, but not the full schedule. He also said that the 2021 budget will have a substantial reduction of revenue. All departments have been asked to present service levels of reduction. This will impact our community.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report as the CARES funding for arts and culture projects was covered in Mr. Betzing's discussion.

8. COUNCIL LIASION REPORT

Ms. Elrod said the survey for Unified Land Use Code (ULUC) concluded public comments. The survey can impact the downtown area through new zoning codes.

Results for the Residents and Business survey have been received and can be found online.

Council also discussed branding and a survey that will be centered on visiting Littleton. The purpose of the survey is to identify how we can reposition and market Littleton as a destination.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Nimz discussed three housekeeping items which were whether to continue the Zoom meetings or meet in person, Mr. Braaten's question regarding if meetings could start at 6:00 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m., and there is a new group email now available for the Arts and Cultural Commission.

10. ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Betzing mentioned the Save Our Stages Act, which was introduced to Congress a few weeks ago. It would allow the Small Business Administration Act (SBA) to give grants to eligible operators, promoters, producers and talent representatives for losses that they have sustained.

Mr. Braaten said that in Westminster they are promoting a female street artist event called Babe Walls.

Ms. Eckel wanted to know how much it would cost to set-up an outdoor stage.

Mr. McCrumb said that he could get back with Ms. Eckel in about a week because he was working on pricing stages now.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2020.

Kristi Moran
Recording Secretary