

MINUTES
Leawood Arts Council
July 27, 2021
Leawood City Hall and Zoom

Present: Anne Blessing, Julia Steinberg, Stephanie Hamil, and Kim Hinkle; and staff liaisons Chris Claxton and Holly York

Anne Blessing called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

CHAIR REPORT

Anne Blessing reported the following:

- City Council approved the art proposal by Dierk Van Keppel for the Leawood Aquatic Center on June 21, 2021.
- City Council approved the Public Art Masterplan and accepted the donation of the sculpture *Praise* by Bruce Niemi on July 19th, 2021.
- APPI needs to recommend a site for *Praise* from the Public Art Masterplan.

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

Minutes were not presented for approval because a quorum wasn't present.

APPI REPORT

Holly York reported the following:

- E.G. Schempf has been contracted to photograph the Public Art Collection. He will provide photos of the outdoor sculptures in both the summer and fall seasons. Photography should be completed by the end of the year. Photos will be high resolution. Chris Claxton confirmed that the Leawood Public Art brochure will be online, but can also be printed if needed.
- Continental Engineering is working on the site survey for *Sky Writing I*. A site survey for *Praise* will be added once its permanent location is determined. Zahner Metal Company has been contacted to provide an estimate to clean *Praise*.
- Katherine Houlehan Bontrager, who is currently writing the Leawood History book, could be available to copy edit the Leawood Public Art brochure.
- Dierk Van Keppel is working on color samples the Leawood Aquatic Center pieces.

CULTURAL ARTS REPORT

Holly York reported the following:

- Grinning and Grooving was featured on Fox 4 News. Reported Attendance: Funky Mama-250, Mr. Stinky Feet-336, The Doo Dads- 256, and StoneLion Puppet Theatre-190 (moved indoors due to rain).
- Summer Art Camps were also featured on Fox 4 News, camps were full or nearly full.
- Cinema in the City: Little Rascals has been rescheduled for September 24th. Babe will be on July 30th.
- Leawood Stage Company's production of Seussical had two performances rained out. They had over 2,000 people attend the musical over 4 nights.

- August Concerts: August 13th, Everyday Strangers, City Hall Amphitheater; August 21st, 1,2,3, Andres, Ironwoods Park; August 27th, KC Latin Jazz Orchestra, City Hall Ampitheater.
- *Inspiration* art dedication will be September 10th at 4:00 PM. Rita still plans to attend.
 - Chris discussed logistical challenges for the on-site dedication of *Inspiration* including access to parking, lane closures, and set up. In the case of rain the dedication will need to take place at City Hall. There was discussion about renting a mini-coach and transporting attendees from the North Tomahawk Park parking lot to the sculpture site.
- Into the Night on October 1st at Ironwoods Park. Volunteers are needed.
- Puzzle Palooza will be November 14th at the Lodge. We increased the teams from 20 to 25.

LEAWOOD 75TH ANNIVERSARY ART

Anne Blessing will schedule a meeting with Mayor Dunn to hear her vision for the art piece. The group agreed that an outdoor sculpture would be best for this project. Discussion about the piece included:

A dynamic sculpture, looking forward, a tree, something abstracted, but not minimal, interactive/participatory, colorful, should attract all ages, celebratory, represents the next 75th years

Anne confirmed the location would be a prominent site that is identified on the Public Art Masterplan. A site should be determined before an RFP is made public. Holly stated that the Arts Council will be working on a CIP in October and the estimated budget for the anniversary sculpture will be around \$150,000-\$200,000. Chris Claxton agreed that the budget is reasonable for a significant art piece. Stephanie Hamil agreed that color would be great for the piece, but she hopes that the sculpture won't be too contemporary or abstract. Holly suggested that there are other ways to incorporate color into the piece such as glass or LED lights. Some members agree that the piece could work well with mosaic glass similar to the style of Spanish artist Antoni Gaudi, but there is concern about withstanding weather. Holly requested that if any of the council members find an artist who has interesting work, to email her the artist's contact information to potentially send them the RFP.

The next meeting is TBD

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

Submitted by: Holly York, Cultural Arts Supervisor