

Leawood Arts Council
Thursday, September 23, 2021
4:30 p.m. – Council Chambers in City Hall and Zoom

Present: Anne Blessing (Chair), Kim Hinkle, Burton Dunbar, Jessica Chanos, Julia Steinberg, Stephanie Hamil, City Council Liaison Julie Cain; and Staff Liaisons Chris Claxton and Holly York.

Anne Blessing called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and Holly York read the COVID-19 statement.

CHAIR REPORT

Anne reported that the dedication of Rita Blitt’s “Inspiration” was a lovely event. She also attended the Pablo Sanhueza and the Latin Jazz Orchestra concert in August. It was a fun event with a diverse audience. Michael Shirley stepped down as Chair of APPI due to health issues. Kim Hinkle has been appointed as the new Chair of APPI.

APPROVAL OF MAY AND JULY MINUTES

Kim Hinkle moved that the Minutes of the LAC meeting of May 24, 2021, be approved. Jessica Chanos seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Stephanie Hamil moved that the Minutes of the LAC meeting of July 27, 2021, be approved.

Anne seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with one abstention by Burton Dunbar, who did not attend the July meeting.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Julie Cain reported that City Council recently considered a new restaurant proposal for the north side of Town Center. No decision was made and the item was continued.

APPI REPORT

Kim Hinkle reported the following:

- An art selection panel is being formed to select art for Leawood’s 75th Anniversary in 2023. The first meeting will take place next month.
- Site plans for “Skywriting I” have been submitted to the Planning Commission. Planning Commission review will be October 26th.
- A site survey is underway for “Praise” for Fire Station #3. Staff hopes to have plans reviewed during the November 23rd Planning Commission meeting.
- The Public Art Collection will continue to be photographed by E.G. Schempf for the brochure, which will primarily be available online but also in print.

CULTURAL ARTS REPORT

Holly York reported the following:

- August Concert Attendance: Everyday Strangers – 75; 1,2,3 Andres – 220; Pablo Sanhueza and the KC Latin Jazz Orchestra – 150. 1,2,3 Andres and the KC Latin Jazz Orchestra both had very diverse attendance.
- Rita Blitt was very pleased with the dedication of her sculpture, “Inspiration”.

- Little Rascals outdoor movie will be on September 24th behind City Hall
- Into the Night Fall Festival is on October 1st at Ironwoods Park from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM and features a variety of activities and entertainment. Advanced registration is recommended.
- Puzzle Palooza is on November 14 at the Lodge and the puzzle will feature a sculpture from the Public Art Collection.
- Holly is also finalizing a contract with a printing company for Leawood's 75th Anniversary book.
- The Leawood Fine Art Gallery is having their 30th year celebration on October 14th from 5 PM to 8 PM. Volunteers are needed to help serve wine.

FUTURE PROGRAMMING IDEAS

Holly York asked the Arts Council for direction and ideas for future programs, especially for February-September programs since the copy deadline for the Program Guide is November 30th. Julia Steinberg and Kim Hinkle voiced their support to keep on the same directional path for concerts regarding new bands, diversity, and offerings for all-ages. Anne asked how programs are marketed outside of the Program Guide. Holly responded that the program's audience is considered when choosing where and how to advertise. Programs are marketed through printed publication, e-blasts, social media, press releases, and City banners. Julie liked the variety of program locations offered this past year. She also suggested the band Atlantic Express for a future concert.

Chris Claxton suggested possibly using the green space in front of the Leawood Aquatic Center for summer concerts. It is where the band is located for the July 4th celebration. Staff is also considering a tribute band as part of the concert series. Other program suggestions were:

- Children's talent show
- Glow in the dark accessories for night events
- Dog-oriented event
- Student art show
- Children's writing contest
- Partnering with banks for small art shows

The next meeting is TBD

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 PM

Submitted by: Holly York, Cultural Arts Supervisor