

Leawood Arts Council
Monday, September 12, 2022
4:30 p.m. – Council Chambers in City Hall and via Zoom

Present: Anne Blessing (Chair), Kim Hinkle, Tara Kesner, Carl McCaffree, Julia Steinberg, Michael Shirley, Council Liaisons Julie Cain and James Azeltine, and Staff Liaison Chris Claxton

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

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Anne noted that the position of Cultural Arts Supervisor has been posted, wished Holly York well in her new position, and noted how grateful she was for all of Holly's great work and ideas during her tenure with the City. Anne thanked Tara Kesner, Julie Cain and Kim Galbraith for serving as judges for the 80s costume contests at the concert on September 9. She also reported on progress with the City's brand strategy project in connection with the City's 75th anniversary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Julia Steinberg made a motion to approve the LAC Minutes from the May 9, 2022, meeting. Michael Shirley seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Julie Cain and James Azeltine reported positive reactions to the City's new logo, as presented by the 75th Anniversary Taskforce, and noted that City Council work and projects were going well.

APPI REPORT

Chris Claxton reported for Kim Hinkle, who joined the meeting later. *Praise* has been installed at Fire Station No. 3 and was dedicated on June 23. *Purple Twist* is installed at the Art on Loan site west of City Hall. *Skywriting I* is installed and landscaping will be added in the spring. The dedication date for this piece will be announced soon. The installation of glass artwork at the Aquatic Center is in process, and the dedication date for the artwork will be announced soon and will probably occur in October. Chris expressed concern about dedicating the piece while the swimming pool is empty, and there was discussion about the possibility of postponing the dedication until the pool is filled next spring. The 75th anniversary artwork *Reaching* has been approved by the City Council and the contract has been signed. Chris noted that APPI will need to schedule a meeting to begin discussions about artwork for Fire Station No. 1 and for a mural in the walk and bikeway tunnel under Roe. Per the CIP report, down payments will be made in 2022 for the mural and in 2023 for the Fire Station No. 1 piece.

CULTURAL ARTS REPORT

Chris reported:

- A 1-year lease rather than a 2-year lease for Purple Twist is recommended, as the artist may donate the piece to the City at the end of the lease term.

- The City Park(ed) Food & Touch a Truck event will be held Friday, September 16, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at Leawood City Park.
- Atlantic Express will perform Friday, September 23, from 6 to 7:30 pm at Leawood City Park in front of the Aquatic Center as the last September Sounds Concert.
- Alex Hamil has created a watercolor painting for the City's 75th anniversary showing the view looking out from City Hall toward the fountain. Art prints of the painting will be sold for the 75th anniversary.
- Work continues on a 2023 public arts calendar.
- The Arts section for the history book being prepared for the City's 75th anniversary has been completed. The book should be ready in September 2023.
- Into the Night Fall Festival will be held Friday, October 7 from 5 to 8 pm in Ironwoods Park.
- Puzzlepalooza will be held on Sunday, November 13, from 2 to 4 pm at the Lodge at Ironwoods.

NEW BUSINESS

Anne mentioned that photos and text for the updated Public Art Brochure have been completed, and someone skilled in layout and design is needed to help complete the project for print and online display.

OLD BUSINESS

Anne reported that, per discussions at the May meeting, the provisions of the City's written Public Art Policy regarding the Art on Loan program will be reviewed and revisions will be suggested to the City Council. The intent of these revisions will be to create better guidance for the process and to increase the stipend for the program. Anne noted that she would like to defer this project until a new Cultural Arts Supervisor has been hired, and she will keep LAC advised.

Anne noted that Burton Dunbar suggested at the May meeting that some sort of art educational programming could be developed to explain and create a greater appreciation for the City's public art collection. She reported that this kind of a program may be incorporated into a 75th anniversary event that is being discussed by the 75th Anniversary Taskforce. She will keep LAC advised on progress. There was discussion about the possibility of holding classes on art appreciation for children at the Oxford School House and the tagging of public art pieces on Google Places. The desirability of a video highlighting the City's art collection was also discussed.

Anne also reported that an increase from \$5 to \$7 per resident for the Public Art Fund was approved by the City Council on September 6. This will result in an additional \$68,000 collected for the Public Art Fund. Per the Public Art Policy, money in the Public Art Fund is divided among the Cultural Arts operating budget, the Leawood Stage Company, and the City Public Capital Art fund.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Next meeting is Monday, November 14, at 4:30 P.M.

Submitted by:

Chris Claxton, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts