**Kirkwood Arts Commission**

**Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Zoe Perkins, Chairperson. In attendance: Zoe Perkins, Jim Erwin, Gary Hochberg, Glenda Hares, Deanna Stevenson, Andrew Smith, Ellen Edman, Henke (Staff Liaison), Rick Duplissie (KPAC Manager), Art McDonnell (Ad Hoc Kirkwood Arts Foundation), Maggie Duwe (Council Liaison). Stefani Kirkland was excused.**

1. **CITIZEN COMMENTS –** There were no citizen comments.
2. **APPROVAL OF February 23, 2021 MEETING MINUTES –** Gary Hochberg moved to approve the February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Glenda Hares seconded the motion. No corrections submitted by Commissioners. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Kirkwood Arts Foundation –– This report will be postponed until later in the meeting when Art MacDonnell arrives. Zoe Perkins reported that she attended the last KAF meeting to speak about the Mel Bay project. Art McDonnell joined the meeting.

In the KAF meeting there was a discussion of a photography contest with KPAC as the subject. Mark Braun is a photographer on KAF and has offered to assist.

b. Sculpture on the Move – Jim Erwin reported on the March 2021 Creative Cities Alliance meeting. Twenty-one cities participated in SOM. When our sculptures are in place, we are requested to submit photos for the app which shows all current sculptures in location. Our current sculptures will be removed by May 1, 2021.

The CCA membership voted by these percentages to express interest in the following new projects:

Temporary Murals: 53%

Performances: 42%

Photography: 37%

Possible sources for funding are the Missouri Arts Council and the Regional Arts Commission.

Zoe reported that she is investigating a bronze toned concrete pad for Gotta Practice at KPAC as a more compatible color for this sculpture.

Mr. Chesla has confirmed that he can remove Cloud Clutter with no additional assistance, but Mr. Snyder has not yet responded about the removal of Exuberance. The next CCA meeting will be in June.

c. Making Music – Gary Hochberg reported that St. Louis County requires a COVID plan to use the Amphitheater. The Chesterfield Amphitheater has a plan on file but it differs from our situation by selling tickets so the attendance is controlled and known.

The restrooms will have to be routinely sanitized. Kyle will work on this and a plan will be submitted as soon as possible. The COVID situation continues to be a concern with possible improvements as the vaccine becomes more available.

The first concert is scheduled for June 26. There will be 2 concerts a month and the Walker Lake concert in October.

d. Public Arts Planning – Deanna Stevenson reported that the subcommittee had a presentation by Alexandra Elias of Renew Moline, Iowa. The Moline Arts Plan is currently pending city council approval. The plan provides a structure for involvement of the community and for organizing stakeholder efforts to revitalize the community with public art. It identifies under-utilized areas suitable for large public art installations and establishes goals and timelines

**IV. Unfinished Business**—There is no Unfinished Business

**V. New Business**

a. Establish Mel Bay Subcommittee—Zoe presented the commission’s preliminary work to the KAF at their last meeting, including the tentative plan to start with a concert series and scholarship. Art McDonnell, Joe Walsh and Christy Beckmann are interested in participating. Then, at the KAC meeting Zoe proposed parameters for the Mel Bay subcommittee based on previous discussions of the Commission.

Gary Hochberg then made the following motion: KAC will form a sub-committee for the purpose of organizing a cultural program in recognition of Mel Bay, Kirkwood resident who created the Mel Bay guitar method and publishing company. This project may include an annual concert series, Kirkwood High School student scholarship, and sculpture. The committee will consist of a selection of KAC/KAF members, Kirkwood staff, as well as members from the public with pertinent knowledge to the project. The duration of this sub-committee will be for two years and is extendable. Jim Erwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Glenda Hares and Ellen from the KAC are interested in serving on the subcommittee. Bill Ruppert who has much background knowledge has been asked to join. There is a person at KHS who can be helpful with the selection of scholarship candidates.

b. Outdoor Sculpture Subcommittee Discussion -- Zoe led a discussion on the features and responsibilities of this possible subcommittee including the following points:

This subcommittee’s work could be a way to move forward with visible short to medium term results and build the KAC’s reputation.

Getting a plan will allow us to proceed immediately with getting a sculpture for KPAC and ultimately for other sites in Kirkwood, particularly the downtown business district. .

Different stakeholders currently have authority with regard to spaces for outdoor sculpture, including the Farmer’s Market Committee, Park Board, City administration and general public. SBD (Special Business District) already has improvements in mind.

It was suggested that a discussion with Russ Hawes may be appropriate in order to help get various city departments on board and acknowledge the role of KAC in the community.

There are opportunities to involve experts in the arts who do not have time for a full-time commission commitment but have knowledge needed for high quality results. Different competencies will be required at different times.

We will have to recruit members, and advertise for the need with descriptions for different roles and “pitch” the job.

There was discussion on including all public art in this committee. However, Zoe felt by starting with a very focused goal there is a higher chance of success of getting an agreed upon plan. It is hoped this step will initiate discussions and learning experiences enabling us to expand quickly to other forms of public art from this point.

Sculpture on the Move could be part of this subcommittee functions.

The committee’s role is advisory with final approval of the City Council, and perhaps the name can include the term “advisory.”

Commissioners were asked to think about this proposal and prepare to revisit it in the next KAC meeting.

c. Cars and Guitars -- Art McDonnell reported that changes in KPAC scheduling required changes for Cars and Guitars. The goal will be more symbolic this year due to COVID, with fewer street closures and the temporary elimination of food sales and booths. The date is October 9, 2021, which will give Cars and Guitars some opportunity to learn from the Greentree Festival.

d. Call for Commissioners – Freddy Doss, Communications Coordinator, included this in the Kirkwood Arts electronic newsletter. In addition to the traditional communication platforms used, it may be advisable to expand the social media presence for this.

e.. Other Matters – There were no other matters.

1. **KPAC GM Report** 
   1. Upcoming Events/New and Exciting –Rick Duplissie reported that KPAC is programmed through 2023, with significant organizations in the production calendar.

The Winter Opera presentation of a Puccini composition was the first mainstage production and it generated revenue. The outlook is bright.

* 1. Gateway Foundation Update – The sculpture “Bear” will be installed in the KPAC upstairs level by the Acme Erectors of Fenton in late April or early May. Zoe mentioned the need to consider finger etching (from observers touching the sculpture) and safety.

**VII. Arts Commission Chair Report**

a. Zoe Perkins asked Maggie Duwe to speak about the Youth Advisory Commission. This group of secondary school students is “awesome “and interested in representing their generation’s visions for the community.

b. Conservation – Conservation work for Brother Mel’s sculpture is still pending suitable weather.

**VIII. Arts Commission Staff Liaison Report –** Kyle Henke reported that Kirkwood citizen Gerry Mandel brought to his attention a recent news article featuring a mural artist and suggested the back wall of the handball court in Kirkwood Park as a potential mural location.

meeting adjourned at 6.30.

Next Meeting Date – April 27, 2021

**Staff Liaison:** Kyle Henke. Phone: 314-822-5856 Email: henkekk@kirkwoodmo.org

**Chair:** Zoe Perkins

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