

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE  
CULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019  
6:00 p.m.**

**WHEAT RIDGE RECREATION CENTER  
4005 Kipling Street, Conference Room**

**Item 1 – Call to Order**

Diane Robb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests**

Members present: Ruth Baranowski, Jerith Gronski, Carol Mathews, Milly Nadler, Dave Opp, Gay Porter DeNileon, Diane Robb, Jessica Schwartz, and Jill Shannon

Members absent: None

Guests: Chris Miller, City Hall Treasurer  
Alma Garcia, Executive Producer,  
Wheat Ridge Theater Company

Staff: None

Chair Diane Robb welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ms. Ruth Baranowski as a new Cultural Commissioner. Robb expressed how delighted she was to have Ruth on board and join the commission.

**Item 3 – Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Shannon made a motion to accept the minutes of May 8, 2019, as amended. Commissioner Nadler seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

**Item 4 – Unfinished Business**

**Public Art Acquisition Recommendation – Anderson Park (Gronski)**

Commissioner Gronski reported that this topic would be moved from “Unfinished

Business” to “Future Agenda” Items. When updated information is received, everyone will be notified.

### **Artspace (Robb)**

Commissioner Robb reported that the City has approved the expenditure of \$12,500 to match the \$12,500 granted by Localworks. We are waiting on approval of the contract from the City and will notify everyone when it has been received. When Artspace has received payment, they will send up a roadmap on how to schedule everything for the Feasibility Study. The Cultural Commission wants to be involved in this project as they are the sponsors of this initiative. Artspace will notify the Commission of any future meetings since there is such a great interest in this program.

### **Budget Subcommittee Planning – Robb, Opp, Schwartz, Porter DeNileon**

No report provided as everything was resolved last month.

### **Poet-in-Residence Program (Nadler)**

Commissioner Nadler reported that the poet, Ms. Sharon Heinlen, would read her poem at the Anderson Park grand opening program on Saturday, June 22nd from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Nadler will check with her to see if she would like to add a poem written for the dedication of the Anderson Park sculpture “Sweetgrass Dance” for an additional \$100. Once the poem is written, the Commission would like to mount it on a plaque so it could be permanently placed by the sculpture. Remaining poems are for the Carnation Festival Mayor’s Reception, Ridgefest, and the Tree Lightening.

Commissioner Porter DeNileon made a motion to approve the additional cost of \$100 to pay for Ms. Heinlen’s services to write an additional poem for the Anderson Park sculpture Sweetgrass Dance. Commissioner Gronski seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

### **The 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Community Art Project (Gronski)**

Commissioner Gronski reported that a two-week social media campaign for the Greetings from Wheat Ridge postcard was launched on June 1. The City’s Facebook account invited residences to get involved in the campaign to showcase the art, parks and businesses around the City of Wheat Ridge. Window clings were handed out prior to the launch date to the local business associations and Greetings postcards were available to residences at City Hill and the Recreation Center. The City worked in collaboration with Localworks who created an oversized Greetings

postcard for selfies at this year's Criterium held on June 9. The Greetings campaign received a fair amount of traction on the City's social accounts, Facebook and Twitter. The oversized Greetings postcard will likely be available for selfies at other sponsored events from Localworks this summer.

### **Wheat Ridge Reads (Porter DeNileon)**

Commissioner Porter DeNileon reported that three of the four authors have committed and still waiting to hear back from the fourth author. The Commission will go forward with the three authors if need be and will prepare information for the survey monkey to go out which will take place in August and September. Our partners, the Wheat Ridge Library and Wheat Ridge High School, will be contacted regarding this information.

### **Carnation Festival Plates (Nadler)**

Commissioner Nadler reported that they have five entries: Bliss Coleman, Carly Picco, Linda Gallegos, Robin De Grassi James, and Vicki Peters. Commissioners Shannon and Nadler selected the top three in the following order: Carly Picco, Vicki Peters, and Bliss Coleman. All the entries with their top recommendations from Commissioners Shannon and Nadler will be sent to City Council member Ms. Leah Dozeman.

### **City Staff Report (Anderson)**

- **Foundation Balance**
- **Public Art Director Update**
- **Opportunities for Public Art with future builds**
- **Cultural programs WRPR offering in current guide**

Commissioner Robb stated that there is no update from last month's staff report. She requested that the city staff reports be under its own line item for the agenda.

### **Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Robb noted for the next agenda to add "Community Presentation" under "Ongoing Business." Commissioner Schwartz will coordinate the project.

Ms. Alma Garcia, Executive Producer from the Wheat Ridge Theater Company, stated that they are looking for support from the Cultural Commission. She expressed they are seeking funds and also looking for rehearsal space on August 2nd.

### **Item 5 – New Business**

Commissioner Robb reported that Commissioner Dave Opp received an award through his employment and gifted the Cultural Commission \$6,000. A lengthy discussion followed as it was decided that this money should be used for a very specific item rather than just going into the general Cultural Commission fund. Some of the ideas included expanding Wheat Ridge Reads, an evening of art in Wheat Ridge, a burning sculpture event at RidgeFest, bringing in a big name to teach a class/lecture, murals, and showcasing artists in Wheat Ridge. The Commissioners will all think about these ideas and further discuss the suggestions at the July meeting.

### **Item 6 – Future Agenda Items**

Mural Program – no report provided.

### **Item 7 – Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Shannon: Welcomed Ruth to the Commission and expressed we had a good meeting.

Commissioner Nadler: Welcomed Ruth and great ideas on how to spend the donation.

Commissioner Mathews: No comments.

Commissioner Opp: Shared that he delivered the second reprint of the development brochures to City Hall. They are placed inside the lobby entrance in the hanging bins.

Commissioner Porter DeNileon: Welcome Ruth and thank you to Dave for the money, time and effort. Expressed her appreciation to Milly and to Jerith. She indicated that she would not be at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Gronski: Great meeting, super informative. Everyone here is wonderful and welcome to Ruth, love everyone's energy.

Commissioner Schwartz: Welcome to Ruth and expressed her appreciation as well.

Commissioner Baranowski: Thank you all for the welcome and look forward to being on the commission.

Commissioner Robb: Welcome to Ruth and excited to have a full board. We have

so many different talents and skills from all of you. June 22nd is the grand opening of Anderson Park and everyone was encouraged to attend the celebration.

**Item 8 – Adjournment**

With no further business, Commissioner Robb adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.