

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

**Wednesday January 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

Item 1 – Call to Order

Chairman Dave Opp called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

Members present: Milly Nadler, Dave Opp, Gay Porter DeNileon, Megan Schneckeburger, Jessica Schwartz and Lisa Streisfeld

Members absent: Shawna Black and Jill Shannon

Guests: None

Staff: Susan Anderson, Recreation & Facilities Manager
Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Center Department

Introductions

Chairman Opp welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Porter DeNileon made a motion to accept the amended minutes of December 9, 2020, as noted. Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

Wheat Ridge Creates vs. Cultural Commission (Anderson)

Susan Anderson reported that she met with Marianne Schilling from City Hall and was advised that they will coordinate the “Wheat Ridge Creates” page on the city website and they will also support “What’s Up Wheat Ridge.” Susan explained that

the Cultural Commission will maintain their page separately on the city website and information from both websites may be linked for sharing to find out what is happening in Wheat Ridge.

Wheat Ridge Reads Update (Porter DeNileon)

Commissioner Porter DeNileon reported she had a virtual run-through trial for the January 20 meeting with author Laura Reseau and Jeffco teen librarian Arra Kartona. Articles have recently appeared in Your Hub, both online and in print editions, and in the Neighborhood Gazette. More promotion will be done in advance on social media. A link to the event will be sent to all commissioners so they, too, can participate.

Poetry Book Publication Update (Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler reported that the poetry book has been published and copies are available. She stated that copies would be placed at the library, the Recreation Center, and the Active Adult Center. Susan advised that unfortunately the Active Adult Center is closed right now. Commissioner Nadler asked for contact information for the Historical Society which will be provided by Commissioner Porter DeNileon.

Commissioner Porter DeNileon inquired if any applicants were received for the Poet-in-Residence Program for next year. Commissioner Nadler reported that unfortunately no applications were received. She would like to post that information again in the fall once this pandemic calms down.

Virtual Art Show (Streisfeld)

Commissioner Streisfeld had no updates to report.

Community Survey (Streisfeld)

Commissioner Streisfeld asked how the commissioners wanted to proceed with the survey. There were discussions about the purpose of the survey and what is the end result goal. It was decided to keep the survey shorter by eliminating some questions and add more open-ended questions. As a result, Commissioner Streisfeld will update the survey. Chairman Opp stated they will review the survey questions at the February meeting and determine the best avenue on how to post the survey.

Commissioner Streisfeld inquired if there was a preferred forum to post the survey, i.e., Survey Monkey. Susan stated that the Parks and Recreation Center uses Survey Monkey for posting surveys. She added that her staff could put the survey together as well. It was decided to send the list of questions to Susan and indicate where the survey should be posted for Kara to complete.

Art Drop Debrief (Schwartz)

Commissioner Schwartz reported that she had sent everyone a debrief summary of the Art Drop event outlining what they accomplished and asked for feedback on ways to improve the program for the future. The program has potential and it is a good opportunity to support local artists. She shared that WR Art League was very grateful to work with the commission. Businesses and artists felt very positive about their involvement and positive feedback was received as well. She added there are more ways to make the event exciting for the community which would also benefit the commission.

Cultural Commission Website Enhancements (Schwartz)

Commissioner Schwartz stated that she is working with the committee for Wheat Ridge Creates on how to put together an arts district in Wheat Ridge. They have formed a checklist that identifies how to develop and build an arts district which would need approval through the Colorado Creative Districts. Her discussion included the following:

- The commission has done a lot of work which has been very impactful towards this progress; asked if interested in taking on this responsibility and if they have the capacity to do so.
- Add and create a business asset map and directory, keep it updated and available on the website.
- ArtSpace visibility study contains information specific to a google map that shows where all creative businesses are located in Wheat Ridge.
- Add and create a public and local art photo gallery of maps identifying where public art is located in Wheat Ridge.
- Option to include yard art and other art displayed in people's properties in the art photo gallery of maps.
- Add and create an Arts and Culture Program archive and listing. Some items are not archived on that page, i.e., Art Drop event, but can be updated.
- Could partner with LocalWorks; they have access to the creative business app/map directory and have funded staff.

Commissioner Porter DeNileon commented that Carolyn with LocalWorks had discussed purchasing a maps app to be used for different events and thought it would be appropriate for the Cultural Commission to feed into that for commission events. Commissioner Schwartz stated she was not aware of that but expressed that LocalWorks wanted to find out the commission's capacity on how we might contribute to these efforts. She commented there is no budget for Wheat Ridge Creates but the city is very supportive of this effort. The commission has a lot to contribute but uncertain about the long-term commitment on keeping the content

updated. She stated that she could communicate with LocalWorks as the city provides them funding so there might be support for this mission and the commission's efforts.

Chairman Opp commented the commission's budget is for \$10,000 for 2021 and asked Susan if money could be set aside for someone to help out administratively with a certain number of hours each week for this effort. It was suggested the Parks and Recreation Staff Assistant could assist with this project. Susan explained that could be a possibility and questioned where the commission would like to hire this person from as well, either from the city or hire a temp.

Commissioner Schwartz commented that the public art photo gallery is already on the city website but addresses still need to be added to the map and events are missing from the Cultural Commission website. There were discussions on how to create the information that is missing to promote the commission's involvement and who should work on that task. In addition, how detailed should the information be to build on the content was expressed. Susan stated to send her any information that is missing for Sara to post on the website.

Commissioner Schwartz requested everyone to review her contact list for any additions of businesses for her to update and send to everyone. Commissioner Porter DeNileon noted if there was a need to approve this plan. Chairman Opp stated that if it is necessary to hire a person to work on this venture, then the commission should first approve a budget for that project. After further discussion, Commissioner Schwartz will reach out to Wheat Ridge Creates. She will also communicate with LocalWorks to see if they could take on the creative business asset map going forward after the commission updates it as much as possible.

Susan advised that Sara added the 2019 Business Awards information to the website.

Item 5 – New Business

2021 Budget (Opp)

Chairman Opp shared that the commission has a budget for 2021. If there is a need to spend the money, the funds would have to be allocated as necessary. Susan shared that the approved 2021 budget is for \$10,000; not for \$20,000 as initially reported due to budget cuts resulting from COVID.

Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

None.

Item 7 – Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Nadler: Thank you to everyone for all the work that has been accomplished, for the Art Drop event, the survey, and Wheat Ridge Reads, which have developed into great stuff. Proud to be a part of the commission.

Commissioner Porter DeNileon: I'm proud of what the commission has accomplished and what it is looking forward to doing in the future. I'm proud to be part of it all. Thanks and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Schneckenburger: No comments, Happy New Year.

Commissioner Streisfeld: No comments, Happy New Year everyone.

Commissioner Schwartz: Good work everyone, Happy New Year.

Commissioner Opp: I echo that and my update is that I am not renewing my term on the commission which expires in March. If anyone is interested in being chair or co-chair, it is a great opportunity.

Item 8 – Adjournment

Chairman Opp adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.