

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE  
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
6:00 p.m.**

**(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)**

**Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chairman Dave Opp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: None

Guests: Melinda Stewart, Citizen

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 January 10, 2021, as noted. Chairman Opp seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

**Item 4 – Unfinished Business**

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

Commissioner Porter DeNileon reported that the author, Laura Reseau, was well prepared for their meeting held on January 20<sup>th</sup> and was delightful as well. Out of 36 people that registered, only half showed up. A lot of young readers were present

which they were counting on. The author agreed to meet with the high school in May and uncertain if it will be virtual or not, depends on the circumstances. She is also working on a schedule with the middle school. Porter DeNileon will follow up with the author to confirm her plans. Such a good year sharing it with the schools and young adult group, a great choice. She would like to see that happen in the future if this program continues. She shared as she transitions off the committee, all her contacts/resource information has been sent to the Cultural Commission email address. Susan Anderson commented that the author has been paid for her services.

### **Virtual Art Show (Streisfeld)**

Commissioner Streisfeld had no update to report at this time.

### **Community Survey (Streisfeld)**

Commissioner Streisfeld reported that she redid the survey by making the questions shorter and added the commission's purpose for doing the survey. The commissioners reviewed the survey and provided their feedback to Streisfeld. The updated survey will be sent to Susan for Kara to post on Survey Monkey.

### **Cultural Commission Website Enhancements (Schwartz)**

Commissioner Schwartz thanked everyone for their feedback and will compile the list and send the information to Susan for implementation.

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

Commissioner Nadler reported that she sent the poet, Sharon Heinlein, 10 copies of the poetry book publication and received a very nice thank you note from her for the copies.

## **Item 5 – New Business**

### **LocalWorks (Porter DeNileon)**

Commissioner Porter DeNileon reported that Carolyn from LocalWorks expressed that she wanted to continue their working relationship with the commission and partnership that has been developed over the last few years. Carolyn also shared that RidgeFest is not going to happen this year due to COVID. Because of that, they want to elevate the chalk art event this summer and they are looking at having more chalk artists. Porter DeNileon stated that she has sent the information/list of the chalk artists to the commission email address. She expressed that Olivia is a great resource and contact for the chalk art event. LocalWorks is also exploring a lot of other things to enjoy this summer. In addition, they are checking into the map app for future projects. They would like the commission's collaboration and involvement to continue in planning future events.

### **Performances in the Park Sponsorship (Opp)**

Commissioner Opp reported that Stephen Clyde from the Parks and Recreation Department contacted him about being a sponsor again for Performances in the Park this summer. Opp stated that they sponsored a band of their choice last year, donated \$1,500, and collaborated on other entertainment selections. He stated that the budget for the commission is \$10,000. In 2019 his corporation donated \$6,200 to the Cultural Commission and only a small portion of that donation has been used. They also have \$4,900 in the Foundation budget. With that in mind, Opp proposed a \$3,000 donation to sponsor the event again for this year. Anderson stated if another week of performances were added, that would include two more events, a morning and an evening performance, which would have to be discussed with Stephen. A committee member commented about spending money for one night of experience, would it be worth the investment vs. using the money on something else that is more permanent or on a temporary installment that people could enjoy. Chairman Opp disagreed and commented that his corporation donated the funds and he would like the money allocated as he is not renewing his term on the commission. Another member expressed that this is a high quality event that they should support as it would give the Cultural Commission a good name in a positive, professional manner. After further discussion, Commissioner Black made a motion to allocate \$4,500 to support the Performances in the Park event this summer. The funds would include \$3,000 from the Foundation account, and \$1,500 from the Cultural Commission budget to sponsor an extra day of performances to be added to the event if possible. Commissioner Porter DeNileon seconded the motion, one member was against, one member preferred \$3,000, not \$4,500, so abstained from voting, and five were in favor; motion passed and was approved. In addition, Opp asked for a volunteer for the Performances in the Park events. Commissioner Nadler volunteered and Commissioner Schneckenburger as well. It was noted that only one volunteer was necessary.

Anderson announced that the Recreation Center has been awarded certification for the Five-Star Certification Program. This certification allows businesses to expand operations by implementing safety measures beyond what is already required by public health orders and guidelines to help slow the spread of COVID-19. With this in mind, they are uncertain how many people can attend the events this summer. Last year they were allowed 175 people, which was Level Yellow. Currently they are at Level Yellow and if by summer that changes to Level Blue, the number of attendees would increase for the events.

Anderson stated that Commissioner Schwartz has been the Cultural Commission liaison for the Wheat Ridge Creates group and since she is now leaving the

commission, they will need a replacement to fill that position. Stewart indicated that they are on a second Cultural Commission appointee for Wheat Ridge Creates. The idea is to cross collaborate in any capacity between the two groups. She shared that she would be happy to bring more information to the next meeting.

### **Item 6 – Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Schneckenburger discussed a program that started in Denver known as Windows of Inspiration. In order to be a sponsor, that would involve contributing money to support local artists and businesses due to the pandemic. She asked if the commission would be interested in exploring this program, if so, she would be happy to research further.

Anderson questioned who would be the future Chairperson since there will be no Chair or Co-Chair for next month's meeting and wanted to know if anyone was interested in stepping into that role. There were discussions about the vacant commissioner positions and how are they announced. Anderson stated that they don't specifically advertise for a Chairperson or a Co-Chair, the committee themselves vote to elect someone for those positions. She shared that they have received two applications for the vacant positions and need approval from City Hall. They don't have any applications for the most recent vacant position. The commissioner openings are in Districts I, II, III, and an At Large position.

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

Commissioner Nadler: Thanked Gay, Dave, Jessica, and Jill for their hard work over the years and for helping the commission move forward in many positive ways, so sorry to see you all go.

Commissioner Porter DeNileon: I agree with Milly, this is a great commission and wish the newbies, to the people that are continuing, the greatest success and the city will be better for your energy. Thank you to Dave and Milly, such a great pleasure to work with you over these years. Thank you Jessica for your energy and to Susan for being our liaison and putting up with us.

Commissioner Black: Second that, have not been here that long and admire all the work that has been done, so thank you.

Commissioner Schneckenburger: Yes to Milly and Shawna's comments, have not been on the commission very long, so thank you for welcoming me on board. To Dave, Gay, Jessica and Jill, best of luck and hope to meet you in person someday.

Commissioner Streisfeld: Thank you for my warm welcome as I joined recently as

well. I admire the hard work from Dave, Gay, Jessica and Jill that they have put into this commission. I have seen a lot of progress in the past three months and that is exciting. Together with the new commissioners, hope we can work as hard as you all have. The commission makes Wheat Ridge a nice place to live, really adds to the community. Thank you for all of your work.

Commissioner Schwartz: Thank you all for your teamwork and having me. I look forward to all the great things that will continue to come from the Cultural Commission.

Commissioner Opp: Echo what everyone has said and looking forward to keeping track of the Cultural Commission and activities, best of luck to moving forward everyone.

Susan Anderson: You all have been wonderful and fun to work with.

### **Item 8 – Adjournment**

Chairman Opp adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.