

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

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

(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

Item 1 – Call to Order

Susan Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the absence of a Chair and Co-Chair.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

Members present: Shawna Black, Celia Daly, Nancy Dragani, Maru Garcia, Milly Nadler, Megan Schneckenburger, and Kim St. Martin

Members absent: Lisa Streisfeld

Guests: Steve Kirkpatrick, City Clerk

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

Introductions

In the absence of a Chair and Co-Chairperson, Susan Anderson welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. Introductions were given by each member as there were four newly elected commissioners on board.

Celia Daly: She has been in Wheat Ridge for a year and a half. Her background is in marketing and enjoys doing art as well. She currently works for Venture Capital Funds and has worked with early stage companies in the canvas industry. She is an artist and excited to be on the commission.

Kim St. Martin: She has been a Wheat Ridge resident for nine years. Her background is in event and meeting planning. Unfortunately this past year she was

laid off in June. Currently she is working to obtain her real estate license. In the meantime, she is still trying to put her planning skills to use.

Shawna Black: She has been on the commission for a year and has lived in Wheat Ridge for 21 years. She is glad to have a full commission. Welcome everyone.

Megan Schneckenburger: She has been on the commission since September of last year. She represented District IV when first appointed and now represents District II which is her home district. She has lived in Wheat Ridge for three years. She is a native of Colorado and grew up in Denver on the east side.

Nancy Dragani: She has lived in Wheat Ridge for three years and works for the government for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Lakewood located on the Denver Federal Center. She is excited to be part of the Cultural Commission. She is looking forward to supporting the arts and culture efforts in Wheat Ridge and getting to know all of the members.

Milly Nadler: She has lived in Wheat Ridge for 19 years in District II. She has been on the commission for 10 years. She was an educator but has always been interested in art. Welcome aboard everyone.

Maru Garcia: She is involved with the theater and acting. She also has two businesses in Wheat Ridge.

Swearing in of New Commissioners (Steve Kirkpatrick)

Mr. Kirkpatrick shared that he works for the City of Wheat Ridge and was elected as the City Clerk in November 2019. He expressed that he was in attendance to swear in the new commissioners. After the induction, he confirmed that Commissioners Celia Daly, Kim St. Martin, Nancy Dragani, and Maria Garcia were all sworn in with congratulations to all. He specified that this oath is required by the city charter and code. He stated that he did not know if other cities do it this way, but this is the process for Wheat Ridge. He indicated to the new commissioners that they will receive two copies of the oath, one will be on plain paper and the other will be on cardstock, suitable for framing. He asked if they could sign the document on plain paper and return it to the city for their records to show that they were now on the commission. Anderson thanked him for taking the time to be available for the swearing in of the new members.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nadler made a motion to accept the minutes of February 10, 2021, as

written. Commissioner Black seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

Virtual Art Show (Summary by Schneckenburger)

Commissioner Schneckenburger expressed that the commission has not been able to do very much out in the community as done in the past due to the pandemic. They are aiming to creating a virtual art show online and have been looking at other platforms and resources that could be useful in the community. In addition, Commissioner Streisfeld has been exploring what other cities are doing for any useful ideas and possibilities for doing an art show. They are reviewing their options to narrow down their choices to make a decision.

Community Survey (Summary by Schneckenburger)

Commissioner Schneckenburger reported that the commission is looking for any wants/desires as far as art and cultural opportunities for the city. A draft survey was sent out last month for commissioners to review and a finalized draft will be sent out one last time so the survey can be sent out to the community. Anderson shared that the Survey Monkey was put together by her staff person. She is waiting on approval from Commissioner Streisfeld for the work that Kara has done in creating the survey. Commissioner Schneckenburger will follow up with her for a status. The survey will be posted on the Cultural Commission website as well as the Wheat Ridge Creates page. Commissioner Nadler will also post it on the Facebook page, Wheat Ridge Cultural Events. Commissioner Dragani suggested other avenues in promoting the survey, for i.e., the Parks and Recreation Center and the Gazette, as well as other monthly newspapers. Commissioner St. Martin also recommended sharing it with local PTAs.

Performances in the Park (Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler reported they have secured a band for Wednesday, July 28th. The name of the band is “Face Vocal” and they are from Boulder. The commission is sponsoring the band and spending \$3,000 for them to perform at the event. The location will be at Anderson Park in the new pavilion. She will double check with Stephen regarding introduction of the band. Commissioner Garcia will be the Cultural Commission representative to introduce the band at the event.

Wheat Ridge Reads (Summary by Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler announced that this program has been in existence for six or seven years. The previous commissioner was the coordinator for the program. She would select five or six books from local authors and provide a synopsis on each of the books. Commissioners would each read the summary and vote. She then compiled the top three choices. The year before last, they would have people vote

on Facebook and it became a popularity contest. Whomever had the most votes would win, so this process didn't work out very well. They continue to include the schools and the participation has been very good. The Wheat Ridge Library also assists with promoting the event. The program includes three events: one for the Cultural Commission, the library (book club type), and a third event for the schools. This year it was held virtually with 20 people in attendance. She stated they strive to locate local authors in Colorado who can do a good job in facilitating a discussion. The person in charge of the program selects the books for the commission, coordinates the voting, and contacts the author for availability. The author was paid \$250 to speak at the event held in January and events are typically scheduled outside.

Anderson expressed that the commission will need to have an election for a Chair and Vice-Chairperson. Once that has been determined, then the commission could choose how the Wheat Ridge Reads Program continues in the future. It is also an opportunity to have conversations on what the commission would want to change with the program and what to keep for the future.

Art Drop (Summary by Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler stated that she, Commissioner Schneckenburger, and a previous commissioner worked on the Art Drop event. It was their first year sponsoring the program. The event was fashioned after the Denver Art Drop but instead they purchased the art with commission funds. They placed two art pieces in each district on a daily basis for a total of 16 art pieces. After the art was placed, a picture of themselves and the art were posted on the Facebook page and Wheat Ridge Neighbors. It was very successful and all of the art was found. Nadler expressed to do this event again in the spring or early summer. They paid \$20 per art piece and it remained in place until found. The commission would have to determine the number art pieces (16 worked well), where and how to hide the art, and when to schedule the event (possibly on weekends to allow for more participation). Pictures of the art were posted ahead of time so people were keeping an eye out to see where the art would be placed. This was a good opportunity to promote local artists. Several businesses also made in-kind donations to cover some of the cost of the items.

Chalk Fest (Summary by Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler stated that Chalk Fest started with RidgeFest at The Green which was sponsored by LocalWorks. This past year, the event was held at Founders Park. A previous commissioner was also in charge of Chalk Fest which was similar to the Denver Chalk Art Fest but made for Wheat Ridge. She

coordinated all of the artists and awards for voting (peoples' choice award and 1st, 2nd place). The event was very successful and would like to continue with that program.

Commissioner Black commented that LocalWorks will not be having RidgeFest this year. They are investing more money into BrewFest and the race. They are doing "Chalk of the Town" that will run over four days on weekends, every month from June through September. It is possible the commission could get involved with that instead. Commission Nadler stated the first few years the event was held at the Greens so that is an idea for this year. The Criterium will be held on September 12th with the race and BrewFest. Another suggestion was to do photography with photos, similar to the art drop, to support the race and BrewFest. Discussions included coordinating an event with breweries and local artists, or to have a plein air art event at Amanda's Farm, such a great place to host events. The commission could also organize murals for different businesses, i.e., Right Coast Pizza.

The city has hired a new Public Art Consultant, Kendall Peterson, and she is currently involved with working on four projects: Clear Creek Crossing, Ward Road Station, Wadsworth Widening, and the Green at 38th. The commission has assigned coordinators for those projects so new nominations will have to be held to work with Kendall. Commissioner Black is the coordinator for the Clear Creek Crossing project. She stated that they met and did an introductory meeting via Zoom. Anderson will invite Kendall to the next meeting for an update of the four projects.

New Cultural Commission Program Coordinators:

Art Drop: (Megan Schneckenburger, Milly Nadler, Celia Daly)

Chalk Fest: (Shawna Black, Nancy Dragani)

Clear Creek Crossing: (Shawna Black)

Cultural Commission Mailbox: (Celia Daly, Nancy Dragani)

Performances in the Park: (Milly Nadler)

The Green at 38th: (Megan Schneckenburger)

Wadsworth Widening: (Vacant)

Ward Road Station: (Lisa Streisfeld)

Wheat Ridge Creates: (Maru Garcia)

Wheat Ridge Reads: (Maru Garcia, Kim St. Martin)

Item 5 – New Business

Commissioner Vacancies/Chair and Vice-Chair (Anderson)

Anderson stated that according to the bylaws, these positions are voted on in April

and asked if anyone was interested in being Chair and Co-Chairperson for the commission. She announced that the chair position is in charge of reviewing the proposed agenda/draft minutes once Terese compiles that information from the recording and then sends it to the chairperson to look over. The chair oversees the meeting and works closely with Susan who is the liaison for the commission and city regarding information. She expressed that she is available to provide support to the commission and to answer any questions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nadler to nominate Megan Schneckenburger as Chair, all were in favor and the motion passed. Commissioner Schneckenburger made a motion to nominate Milly Nadler as Co-Chair, all were in favor and the motion passed.

CARES Act fund bonus money from WR Foundation-\$307.42 (Anderson)

Anderson stated that the commission has received bonus money (\$307) from the Wheat Ridge Foundation fund to spend as deemed necessary. The commission also has a \$10,000 budget available from city funds to be spent on future projects. Also, there are funds in the WR Foundation Cultural Commission account as well. At last month's meeting funds were approved and allocated for the Performances in the Park event.

WRRC youth and adult amateur artist wall murals in Aquatics and Children's Pavilion (Anderson)

Anderson asked if the commission was interested in overseeing a project to support amateur artists to paint two wall murals at the Recreation Center for their pools in Aquatics and the Children's Pavilion. After discussion, the commission was interested in doing a mural of some kind for both wall spaces. Anderson suggested that maybe a professional artist could monitor the project and the commission could commit to the artist for one year. The Recreation Center would provide the two wall spaces and a theme topic. Commissioners Schneckenburger and Black volunteered to be the coordinators to work on this venture and will check with the Wheat Ridge High School and middle school for any interest to participate in the project. Anderson will work with the commission on developing an outline for the project as it will need city approval.

Letter of support-request from Brandon for Richards-Hart Estate preservation improvements grant (Anderson)

Anderson stated that Brandon Altenburg is the Grant and Special Project Administrator for the Recreation Center. He is working on a grant for the Richards-Hart Estate preservation and asked if the commission was interested in signing or

writing a letter of support for Brandon to obtain a grant for the preservation of the estate. The template will be sent to everyone for their review to sign or to provide a letter of their own for support. Commissioner Schneckenburger will coordinate for any questions regarding the letter and will forward to Susan.

Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

Anderson asked for any future agenda items. The following were added for next month's meeting:

- Invite Public Art Consultant for overview of project updates
- Review Cultural Commission Vision and Mission Statement
- Review Cultural Commission calendar of events
- Budget planning

Commissioner Black will send information on what LocalWorks is working on.

Commissioner Nadler volunteered to put together the calendar of events.

Commissioner Schneckenburger will share information regarding the Art Drop Program. Commissioner Nadler commented that the commission has an email mailbox and someone will need to monitor the mailbox. After 30 days, emails are deleted so it is important to check routinely so the emails are not lost.

Commissioners Daly and Dragani volunteered to monitor the Cultural Commission mailbox.

Item 7 – Commissioner Comments

Anderson asked commissioners to send a synopsis of their agenda items and summaries of their commissioner comments to Terese as it is difficult to interpret on the recording due to all the background noise taking place during the meeting and the clarity of when someone is speaking, not loud enough or muffled.

Commissioner Nadler: I want to welcome everyone and it was a great meeting. I'm glad for the good input. LocalWorks has an event coming up on March 27th called Porches and Patio Pop-Ups and they will have a live mural painting. Will email the details when they are available.

Commissioner Black: The mural is going to be at the Four Seasons Market on 38th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Welcome to everyone and glad to have a whole bunch of great people, thank you.

Commissioner Schneckenburger: Welcome to all the new commissioners. Thank you to Milly for nominating me to be your new chair. I look forward to continuing the important and necessary work of the commission, thank you.

Commissioner Dragani: I want to thank the three of you as we are soaking up information and you are carrying the load right now. I appreciate Milly, Shawwna and Megan for what you have been doing and helping us come up to speed. Hoping to not have to do zoom meetings by the summer and to deal with all the background noises and to meet in person is the best way to do business in my perspective. Glad to be here and appreciate all that you are bringing to the table.

Commissioner St. Martin: I'm excited about this opportunity. I heard about it from my neighbor and it's great to get involved with the community in this way and to get to work with a great group of women. I look forward to seeing what this is all about.

Commissioner Garcia: I'm super grateful for this opportunity and excited to contribute as much as I can.

Commissioner Daly: I'm really excited and echo Nancy's comments. Thank you guys so much for helping us get up to speed.

Item 8 – Adjournment

Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.