

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

**Wednesday, June 9, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Megan Deffner called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

Members present: Celia Daly, Megan Deffner, Nancy Dragani, Maru Garcia and Milly Nadler

Members absent: Kim St. Martin and Kathleen Martell

Guests: None

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

Introductions

Chair Deffner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Brief introductions were made by the commissioners.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nadler made a motion to accept the minutes of May 14, 2021, as written. Commissioner Dragani seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

Arts Drop Project – June Event (Deffner)

Chair Deffner reported the following:

- Kicks off this weekend, Saturday, June 12 runs through June 24

- Dropping 16 times over the 12-day event
- Excellent art this year including a ceramic pig made by the youngest art league member who is 13 years old, beautifully hand-painted garden flags, some awesome pieces from Wheat Ridge Art League, and a couple submissions from one of our very own Milly Nadler with mini quilts
- Follow the commission's Facebook page (Wheat Ridge Cultural Events) and share the event with your friends and neighbors!

Chalk of the Town (Dragani)

Commissioner Dragani reported the following:

- To date, 5 artists have expressed interest for event in July and August
- Hopefully will have 2 artists for June, July and August events
- Carolyn from Localworks is in contact with the artists regarding the schedule
- Confirmed artists will submit invoices for reimbursement for \$200 artist fee
- Reimbursements to artists after services have been provided
- Localworks asked for assistance regarding volunteers

Carnation Festival Plate (Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler reported the following:

In the past, the Carnation Festival has asked for the commission's support regarding this event. This is an annual tradition that honors the parade winners by giving award plates to those selected winners. These plates are then displayed along the walls of City Hall. The Cultural Commission's involvement has been to collect the design submissions and rank the choices for a recommendation to the Festival Committee to select the winners. The winners are also given monetary prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place by the committee.

- To date, have received 3 design plate submissions
- Deadline is tomorrow
- Will email plate design submissions to commission members to select 1st, 2nd and 3rd place choices
- After, will send plate design recommendations and all entries to City Council Representative Leah Dozeman

Cultural Commission Business Award (Deffner)

Chair Deffner reported the following:

- Annual event to recognize outstanding businesses in the community, awards are announced at the Business Appreciation Awards Breakfast
- Cultural Commission presents an award every year for the best/most cultural or artistic business
- Cultural Commission has presented an award the last 15 years
- This year though, the city will present awards to people who went above and beyond for the response to the pandemic
- The Cultural Commission discussed potential businesses that may be deserving of the award
- The commission will discuss in July ideas of potential businesses to nominate and why

Item 5 – New Business

Performances in the Park Live Artist Sponsorship (Daly/Deffner))

Chair Deffner reported the following:

- Contacted Sina, President of the Wheat Ridge Art League, and shared this opportunity
- Sina will take it to the members at their next meeting which occurs the same week of the Cultural Commission meeting - expect to hear something soon
- The group discussed using money not going towards Performances in the Park to sponsor additional artists if there are a few artists interested

Susan Anderson stated that the commission will not have to spend all the funds as originally allocated, which would have been \$1,500 out of their budget; only \$3,000 from the Foundation budget is necessary.

Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

Wheat Ridge Reads Program:

- The Cultural Commission hosts the annual Wheat Ridge Reads Program
- Citywide book club, designed to promote literacy and a shared reading experience throughout the city
- The author of the selected book holds readings at the Library, Wheat Ridge High School and at a local business
- Started in 2012
- A list of 10 books from Colorado authors presented to the commission for consideration
- Book usually appeals to both a teen and adult audience
- The commission individually reviews the list of 10 and narrows down to their

- top 3 – discussed at a future meeting and the final book is chosen
- Traditionally occurs in January
- Maru is the new lead for the program
- She will begin to search authors/books and has a few ideas of people in her network
- Potential timeline:
 - August/September – book list review
 - October – book selection by commission
 - November – coordination for readings with library/schools
 - December – coordination with author, buying of books
- In 2020, Cultural Commission distributed books in little libraries due to COVID - will continue it to increase awareness of little libraries and to promote Wheat Ridge Reads

Commissioner Nadler stated the previous commissioner belonged to the writer's workshop so received a lot of information from them for the program. Commissioner Garcia expressed that she has a lot of friends that are writers or they might know of someone. Nadler shared that the author needs to discuss their book and is also a motivating speaker. The author attends three events, one sponsored by the commission, one at Wheat Ridge High School and the library. In the past, the commission has paid a \$250 fee to attend all three events by the author.

Item 7 – Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Garcia: Thank you everyone. A little self-promotion and I am directing a new drive thru project. It opens this coming Friday at Colorado Free University at the Lowry campus. It's a murder mystery, just go to Firehouse Theater Company. I'm not producing, just directing, but come see it, it's worth it. If you want me to continue with the drive-thru's in Wheat Ridge, I would love to.

Commissioner Nadler: A big shout out to Megan for all the work that she does. She puts in countless hours to keep us on track and communicating with us. She is doing a fantastic job. Just wanted to make sure that gets mentioned.

Commissioner Dragani: Could not agree with Milly more and appreciate all the work that you do Megan. Took her son and daughter to Anderson Park to see the drive thru play and that is all they have talked about and want to go back. Well worth it and so cool. It was the highlight of our weekend. Great job Maru!

Commissioner Daly: Second Milly's comments regarding Megan, you have been so helpful with the Arts Drop project. Happy summer everyone. Let's hopefully get some art out into the world next week.

Commissioner Deffner: I will be out of town next month – Milly will lead the July meeting. Here's to a great summer Arts Drop and I'll see everyone in August.

Item 8 – Adjournment

Chair Deffner adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.