

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Megan Deffner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

Members present: Celia Daly, Megan Deffner, Kathleen Martell, and Milly Nadler

Members absent: Nancy Dragani, Maru Garcia, and Kim St. Martin

Guests: None

Staff: Bryan Blaser, Facility & Fitness Supervisor
Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Center Department

Introductions

Chair Megan Deffner welcomed everyone to the meeting; brief introductions were given by all commissioners.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Chair Deffner made a motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2021, as amended. Commissioner Nadler seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

Commission Budget (Deffner)

Chair Deffner provided the following report:

- Cultural Commission Foundation budget stands at: \$2,228.72 as the commission has spent \$3,000 for FACE Vocal Band.

- Chair Deffner proposed to keep this money in the Foundation fund for their sponsorship of a Performances in the Park event next year as that was why the money was originally donated and allocated.
- The commission budget is (\$10K allocated annually); they have spent or plan to spend \$6,823, leaving a balance of \$3,177.
- This includes the 38th Avenue grant project if it is picked which has not yet been confirmed.
- This also includes \$850 budgeted for the RidgeFest ChalkFest. However, RidgeFest is not happening this year, only the criterium or bike race portion of the event.
- If the grant project isn't funded and since the commission is not doing a sponsored ChalkFest at RidgeFest, there may be closer to \$5 or \$6k to spend by the end of the year.
- If the commission does use this money, it will be a loss as it does not roll over.
- A budget brainstorm will be added to next month's agenda along with a discussion of the 2022 budget which Chair Deffner has begun drafting and will share soon. If anyone has any big ideas that the commission can accomplish as a group this fall/winter, this will be discussed next month.

Performances in the Park – Face Vocal Band (Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler stated that the commission sponsored one of the performances at this event and it was a huge success with a great turnout. The band mentioned the commission several times during the concert for sponsoring them which was great PR. Nadler suggested that they sponsor the band again for next year.

Local Works Partnership Ideas (Daly)

Commissioner Daly reported that Localworks is focused on economic development in Wheat Ridge. They're in the process of developing a Maker Space which may offer some opportunities for the Cultural Commission. At this time, the commission is just monitoring that and will have ideas for collaboration to come.

Chair Deffner suggested to invite Kate Cooke, Executive Director from Localworks to a future meeting to brainstorm how the commission could work together and partner with Localworks for future events.

Business Awards Breakfast – Cultural Commission Award (Deffner)

Chair Deffner provided the following report:

- Thank you for taking care of nominations and the selections for the Cultural

- Commission Award last month.
- Information has been sent to the city for the event.
 - Commissioner Nadler is currently working on ordering the awards for the winner and awards for the nominees.
 - They have received a quote of \$100 for the winning plaque and waiting on quotes for the others. Chair Deffner will update the budget with this information once it's finalized.
 - Thank Em Productions is the company providing an in-kind donation towards the cost of the art file, big thank you to them.
 - Will reach out to the winners this week and nominees individually about attending the event next month.
 - The only other outstanding item to take care of is to identify which commissioner will speak at the event next month. Will reach out to Commissioner Garcia as she nominated the winner. Commissioner Martell will also be attending the event and can speak if she is unavailable.
 - The event is on Thursday, September 23rd from 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.

Wheat Ridge Reads (Deffner)

Chair Deffner provided the following report:

- Commissioner Garcia sent out a document last week of seven books she's identified.
- Chair Deffner briefly reviewed and think they are all good options for this/next year's event.
- Proposed that everyone please review the book descriptions and come prepared to talk about them in September and they will narrow it down to your top three.
- The commission will then narrow it down to the top book.

Item 5 – New Business

Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

- **Harvest Festival Poet-in-Residence Opportunity (Martell)**
Commissioner Martell stated that the Regenerate Wheat Ridge Program includes a Harvest Festival that is set for October 16th. She is on the planning committee and requested information if it would be appropriate to ask the Wheat Ridge Poet-in-Residence to participate in some way. Commissioner Nadler reported that Sharon Heinlen was no longer the poet, her term had ended which was for 2019-2020. They do not have a subsequent poet in place. The commission had advertised for a new Poet-in-Residence and

received no interest, but it was during the pandemic, so will try again. Nadler provided her contact information and what the commission paid her for the events (\$100 per poem reading, 6 in 2019; \$400 for the 2020 education program to work with kids in school). Martell will be meeting with the Harvest Festival planning committee to see if they want to reach out to Ms. Heinlen and will provide an update.

- **How WR agricultural identity may fit into cultural identity (Martell)**
Commissioner Martell wanted to know how the commission works in partnership with Localworks and Wheat Ridge Creatives. She asked how they could brainstorm ideas in the future regarding the agriculture and cultural history in Wheat Ridge to become part of the commission's vision and mission. Chair Deffner suggested the commission contact City Council Representative Amanda Weaver as she owns a farm, and to explore any suggestions with her on how the commission could provide a partnership regarding this venture. Commissioner Martell will get in touch with her to see if they could schedule a visit on her farm sometime in the fall.

Window of Inspiration (Deffner)

Chair Deffner provided the following report:

- This was a program that started last year in Denver.
- It's a way to support local businesses and artists while giving messages of inspiration to the community.
- The commission could sponsor a local business and provide funds for them to support a local artist.
- That artist would then create a work of art with messages of inspiration on the business's windows.
- This could be an easy way to spend the remaining funds this year while also being active as a commission during fall and winter when they don't have as much going on.
- Chair Deffner will provide more information next month for the commission's consideration.

Chalk of the Town Wrap-up (Dragani)

This topic was not discussed at the meeting.

Item 7 – Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Daly: Thank you Megan for running such a great efficient meeting.

Commissioner Martell: Will not attend next month's meeting but will contact Megan about what was discussed at the meeting as there is a lot going on.

Commissioner Nadler: The next Wheat Ridge Creatives monthly meeting is next Thursday, August 19th at 5 p.m., and the commission agreed to rotate the meeting attendance. Chair Deffner will attend the next meeting for the commission.

Chair Deffner: I want to remind everyone that the Mayor's Carnation Festival Reception is tomorrow from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. If you aren't busy and can make it, it looks to be a fun event. Also, the Carnation Festival kicks off Friday and runs through Sunday. I also wanted to thank everyone for your continued commitment to the commission. We have a lot going on and with several new members, I'm very proud of what we've accomplished to date and during the pandemic. Lastly, Commissioner Martin is stepping down from the commission. That means we have two vacancies in District III and a vacancy in District IV. Please share these opportunities with people you think may be interested.

Item 8 – Adjournment

Chair Deffner adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.