

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Megan Deffner called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

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

Members absent: Kathleen Martell

Guests: None

Staff: Susan Anderson, Recreation & Facilities Manager
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

Commissioner Nadler made a motion to accept the minutes of August 11, 2021, as written. Commissioner Daly seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

Business Award Dinner

Chair Deffner reported that an invite was sent to all commissioners for the business award dinner which will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, from 5-7 p.m. at the Recreation Center. Susan Anderson will confirm with City Hall that commissioners

Nadler and Garcia will attend the dinner.

Also, the chosen winner declined the business award nomination and expressed it should go to some other business more deserving of the award as they are not located in the city limits, even though they operate their business in the city. The commissioners agreed to give the award to the runner up as they have participated in both of the Arts Drop events and have been very supportive as a business. The runner-up was contacted and is excited about receiving the award. A new plaque will be ordered; the cost will come out of the commission budget.

Budget Brainstorming Ideas/2022 Budget (Deffner)

Chair Deffner provided the following report:

Suggestions are needed on how to spend the remaining budget for 2021. Planning to spend \$6,000 but it depends on if the 38th project is awarded. Commissioner Daly discussed sponsoring an artist and will have to contact Localworks. She will follow up with Kate at Localworks and provide an update at the next meeting. Chair Megan discussed sponsoring “Art on the Farm” with live music and having a band that would cost \$300. Chair Deffner made a motion to support the Art on the Farm event on September 25th with a live band for \$300 and up to \$1,000. Commissioner Nadler seconded the motion, all were in agreement and approved.

Chair Deffner discussed different ideas for spending the remaining 2021 budget on a Holiday Market, Gift Drive, etc. Other suggestions were having “Winter Carolers” and providing support for the Holiday Lighting Ceremony by sponsoring a Santa, providing hot chocolate, and having more hayrides due to the long lines at the event. Also, another idea was to have different events going on such as a “Storyteller” for the children due to the long lines. Susan Anderson will discuss these ideas with Stephen Clyde as he is the coordinator for the event.

Anderson stated that she has submitted a draft proposal to Chair Deffner for the Recreation Center Mural Project for the 2022 budget. The cost would be \$2,900. The budget submitted for 2022 for \$10,000 has not been approved by the city as of yet. Chair Deffner asked for ideas on how to spend the money for the 2022 budget. Several suggestions were to have another Poet-in-Residence or sponsor an additional band (rock) for Performances in the Park. Anderson stated they have received sufficient money in their budget to cover the expenses for live band performances. Another idea was to have a Yard Art, Garden Tour type of event. Chair Deffner stated that she will update the budget spreadsheets and send out to everyone.

Harvest Festival Poet-in-Residence Opportunity (Deffner for Martell)

Chair Deffner reported that this event will be on October 16th from 1-4 p.m. at Anderson Park. Commissioner Martell had discussed with the Harvest Committee and Sharon Heilen, the previous poet, and stated that Ms. Heilen would be happy to read a poem as an in-kind service. The Harvest Committee will provide her with a gift for her generosity. There will be no cost to the commission for the event.

Window of Inspiration Update (Deffner)

Chair Deffner reported that she has not heard back from her contact. This venture would be to sponsor an artist who would create artwork on windows for a business with messages of inspiration. It would be a way to support a local business and artists while giving messages of inspiration to the community. However, it is questionable how this would fit into the budget for this year.

Wheat Ridge Reads Update (Garcia)

Commissioner Garcia provided the following report:

- Information was sent out last week to review seven books.
- The commission discussed all the books and selected “Mesmerized, David Matthew Barnes, Author,” as their top choice.
- Will contact the author to discuss dates and availability to appear at the high school, library, and at a public event.
- Will determine the number of books needed for Little Libraries.
- Books will be purchased with 2021 commission funds and for three presentations that will be given by the author, fee will be \$250.

Item 5 – New Business

None.

Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

- **How WR agricultural identity may fit into cultural identity (Deffner for Martell)**
Chair Deffner stated that Commissioner Martell reached out to Amanda Weaver for discussion and will provide an update later.
- **Mural Project Sponsorship for 2022**

Chalk of the Town Wrap-up (Dragani)

Commissioner Dragani reported that five artists participated in the artwork event. The commission has spent \$800 of the \$1,000 obligated out of their budget with one more invoice to be paid. All of the artwork was great but would have liked for more businesses to have participated. There are a few items that can be done better for next year. Would like to publicize the event more for next year to reach out to the community. Commissioner Nadler expressed that Localworks posted information regarding the event on their website.

Item 7 – Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Nadler: Thank you Maru for picking books to review and Nancy for her work on the Chalk of the Town. Grateful for a budget since the commission operated without a budget for many years, so thank you to the city.

Commissioner Garcia: Thank you commissioners for reviewing the books and very excited about the program.

Commissioner Dragani: Very productive meeting, have been working in DC and looking forward to being back.

Commissioner Daly: Echo what everyone said and thanks Megan for running a great meeting.

Chair Deffner: Thank you commissioners for your commitments to all of the events. Will be following up with emails to all of you. See you next month.

Item 8 – Adjournment

Chair Deffner adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.