



The May 14, 2019 meeting of the Fishers Arts & Culture Commission convened at 6:31 p.m.

A roll call was taken and those members present were: Cecilia Coble, David Decker, Jamie Follis, Kathryn Haigh, Marisol Sanchez, Jocelyn Vare, Kevin Stotts and Marissa Deckert.

Members absent: Chris Lingner.

Others present were: Leah McGrath, Ross Hilleary, Kelly Lewark, Tony Bagato, Stephanie Perry, Sarah Sandquist, Larry Lannan, Ailithir McGill, Shari Knox and Jason O'Neill.

Public Recognition:

Chairman David Decker read a letter of support from Mayor Scott Fadness for the Fishers Art Council. Vice Chairwoman Coble and Commissioner Vare also thanked the Arts Council for all that they do in the community.

Mr. Decker led an ice breaker for the Commission to get to know one another. The topic: *When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?*

Mr. Decker called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the March 12, 2019 meeting. Ms. Coble made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Sanchez. The Minutes were approved, 6-0.

The Commission acknowledged they reviewed the Staff Reports provided by staff. There were no questions or comments.

Mayor's Youth Council – Creative Placemaking Presentation: Leah McGrath noted the Youth Council was unable to attend the meeting to present. She will forward the presentation to the Commissioners.

Ms. McGrath led the Master Plan Discussion. She noted the City will bring in a moderator for the group. The main objective for the subcommittee will be to identify vision and goals. The big question is *What do we want Fishers to be known for in arts and culture?* She also shared the expected process and timeline with the Commissioners.

Ms. McGrath asked the Commission to brainstorm ideas on what they want Fishers to be known for:

- Apply creative technology to the arts
- Hip, active, busy community
- Incorporate art within the fabric of the City
- Colorful
- Innovative
- Be inspired
- Values commerce of art and culture; monetize what artists do; community-led
- Incubator environment
- Attracts local and national talent
- Attracts more varied artists
- Art should give a sense of place
- Fishers is constantly evolving

- Fishers feels “just right”
- Fishers is proactive
- Identify what ways Fishers is evolving
- Programs, innovation, tech sector
- How can art be a part of social causes, i.e. mental health
- Flexible/adaptable
- Welcoming of diversity
- Iconic structure to define Fishers
- Space to go to reflect, gain serenity/peace, relaxation, mindful techniques
- Art/wellness connection

What are some opportunities?

- Clean slate; create something from the ground up
- Asking the community what they want
- Allow the creatives to be planners
- Be experimental, try wacky/different things
- Thoughtful placemaking

What are some challenges?

- Constantly evolving – how do we capture that uniqueness and keep up with the evolution
- Connecting with the community
- Fishers has passionate/forward thinkers – many are not engaged
- Evolution has become more siloed.
- Creating an atmosphere where it is acceptable to be an artist
- Lack of indoor venue, performer/gallery space

Ideas for programs/events were noted:

- Art show for the city
- Roving pop up program in places that need it most
- Food trucks and hammocks
- What to do when weather isn’t great – what do we in Fishers in winter
- Film Festival
- Promote more of what is already happening
- Invite partners to be a part of art scene - Opportunity with kids is huge --- Indianapolis Ballet Co, Young Actors Guild, etc.
- Want programming “systems” – i.e. every Tuesday... First Fridays...

Announcements:

- Calendar invites: Ross Hilleary informed the Commission about upcoming community events and to expect calendar invites arriving from staff.
- NPD Subcommittee Initial Meeting: Mr. Hilleary informed the Commission that the first meeting of the Nickel Plate District Cultural Designation Subcommittee is scheduled for May 20, 2019. Chairman Decker and Commissioner Vare represent the Commission on this subcommittee.
- IMS Arts Project on the Edge: Stephanie Perry shared information about IMS Wings which is a part of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway’s initiative to celebrate the month of May and promote the 500 Festival. The wings were designed by local artist, Mallory Hodgkin and is installed outside of The Well Coffeehouse and Smoothie King on Lantern Road. The wings serve as a great selfie spot and have been popular on social media over the past few weeks.

Update from Nickel Plate Arts: Aili McGill

- 2019 Congressional Art Competition – Ms. McGill stated there was an incredible showing of HSE & Fishers High School students at this year’s competition.
- RFQ coming soon for a Public Art project at The Yard at Fishers District.
- Nickel Plate Arts will be hosting Fishers High School interns in the Fall.
- Indiana Art Commission State-wide Cultural District Consortium Retreat to be hosted in Fishers on August 9-10, 2019. Commissioners were asked to keep the date available to participate.
- Conner Prairie is a place that families return to year after year and is has become an Instagram-able location for families to make memories. Conner Prairie is ready to move into their next phase of Master Planning and are huge asset to Fishers regarding art and culture. Community Wide Development Program – Ham Co Tourism, Hub & Spoke, One Zone to focus on world class approach to developing a business plan and creative problem solving.
- Shari Knox said the Fishers Arts Council also wants to hold classes for adults on how to purchases art and would love to have a space in downtown Fishers to provide classes.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kelly Lewark, Recording Secretary