



The January 12, 2021 meeting of the Fishers Arts & Culture Commission convened at 6:00 p.m.

A roll call was taken. Those members present via Teams were: Cecilia Coble, David Decker, Jamie Follis, Marisol Sanchez, Jocelyn Vare and Tony Bagato.

Members absent: Chris Lingner, Katie Haigh and Marissa Deckert.

Others present: Ross Hilleary, Kelly Lewark, Lauren Dahlager, Ashley Elrod, Stephanie Perry, Mackenzie Poole, Sarah Sandquist, Aili McGill, Tom Rich, and Tracy Gaynor.

Reappointment of Officers: This item was moved to the next meeting in March 2021.

Public Recognition: None

Mr. Decker called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Vare made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion approved, 5-0.

Old Business:

ThisisFishers.com / HUB Update

Ashley Elrod presented the update on the launch of *ThisisFishers.com*. They anticipate the Arts and Culture section to go live in approx. 4 weeks. Ms. Elrod stated PR has gone as far as they can go with adding content. They are calling on the Commission and other arts & culture stakeholders to help them add more content. Ms. Elrod asked the Commission for feedback on the site. The Commission brainstormed items to add to the site that could be helpful for residents and artists to find information. Ms. Elrod will take those suggestions to the developer. Aili McGill noted the Creative Council would be a good group to review the site. They will discuss at their next meeting in February.

Nickel Plate District Cultural Designation Subcommittee

Ross Hilleary presented a recap of the projects the subcommittee reviewed last year. In 2020, the Fishers Arts and Culture Commission and the City of Fishers put forth four (4) different Request for Qualification, or RFQ's, for public art projects that we will see come to fruition throughout the year of 2021, all within the Nickel Plate District, a statewide recognized cultural district. These projects included: a mural on the Police Station Garage along the Nickel Plate Trail, the Series 4 Banners on the Edge Parking Garage, a Gateway Feature near the intersection of E 116th Street and Commercial Drive off Interstate 69 and an interactive art piece at the Hamilton East Public Library grounds along the Nickel Plate Trail.

Tony Bagato noted the design team for the Gateway Feature will meet with the Subcommittee to discuss possible design elements for the glass panels. Staff is looking for ideas for a design pattern that reflects Fishers and/or the Nickel Plate District. Feedback from the Commission is welcome.

Mr. Bagato asked the Commission if they would like to see any changes made to the Subcommittee. It was determined the Commission is happy with the way the subcommittee is currently working and the members are enjoying seeing these projects go through the process.

Discussion was had on the Police Station Garage Mural. The Commission provided staff with some possible modifications to the design. Mr. Bagato noted this was a conceptual design and some modifications will be made by the artist.

Mr. Decker asked PR if there is a plan to document the progress of these projects. Stephanie Perry noted there is an opportunity to capture through social media. Mr. Follis suggested creating a time lapse of photos.

New Business:

2020 Goal Review

Tony Bagato presented a recap of last year's goals. In 2020, the Commission created three goals to accomplish throughout the year. These goals were Brand Positioning of Arts and Culture, Build Awareness of Arts and Culture, and Engage Stakeholders and Community in Arts and Culture. Mr. Bagato said he anticipates the next Commission meeting being a work session to discuss these goals, specifically Brand Positioning, to solidify the brand position use criteria. He would also like to discuss the engagement of stakeholders in 2021. He will send the Commission a recap through email at the end of the month so they can be prepared for discussion at their next meeting.

2021 Goal Setting

Tony shared possible goals for 2021. They include:

- Developing a distinct identity for the Cultural District
 - o This will be the top goal as this is a key point in obtaining/keeping the Arts and Culture Designation from the state. Aili noted this will be a tricky question overall for Fishers because so many other districts around the City are emerging and it is easy to get distracted by the newest place. Fishers must define the essence/brand of the downtown Nickel Plate district. This is important and what the State is looking for.
- Continue to build awareness of Arts & Culture
- Creative/Fun idea – “Life in 2020” – mural or movie, possibly engage students to help
- Budget Goals
 - o David suggested adding a line item for Consultant fees.
 - o Jocelyn suggested the Commission could provide grants. The non-profit committee had an abundance of arts applications come through looking for grants. Tony noted they can discuss at their next meeting.

Tony shared he would like to change the meeting schedule so that the last meeting of the year falls in December. He would like to have the budget settled and goals planned before the first meeting of next year.

Community Comment:

Creative Council Update: the next Creative Council meeting is February 9, 2021. David would like to ask the council for some ideas about their goals so that he can share at the next Commission meeting. Aili agreed but suggested placing a few boundaries on what we would like to see from the council. The intent of this group is for creative brainstorming and to give feedback to the Commission. This group would be a great resource to help populate ThisisFishers.com site. She would like to have a project or something demonstrable for this group or participation will start to go down. It is important to keep the group engaged. From the survey that was created for this group, it showed that engaging the community is what this group values most.

Update from Nickel Plate Arts:

- January 23rd – comic book in a day, collaborating with the library. 25 artists participated last year. Please encourage folks to sign up. They are also doing outreach to scouts. This activity will meet requirements for badges. Sign up at <https://nickelplatearts.org/comicbookinaday/>.
- NPA is now sharing an employee with Fishers Arts Council to consolidate our efforts and support each other as

best as possible.

- Tony and Aili are working on the cultural grant and are looking for stories to add to the grant report. The two themes for stories are:
 - o How does the Fishers Arts & Culture District make people feel connected to and/or proud of their community?
 - o How cultural planning is harnessing the power of creative people for community well-being?
- These are specific to the Nickel Plate District.
- Cecilia noted the creative council might have feedback or stories to share.

Update from Fishers Arts Council:

- Les Rhinehardt, Executive Director is the part-time employee that will work together with Nickel Plate Arts
- Art in City Hall:
 - o Jeremy Mallov – City Hall
 - o The Alcove Exhibit - Rebecca Robinson
 - o 2nd floor, mini exhibit – the Art of Hugh Syme
- For more upcoming events, go to <https://www.fishersartscouncil.org/upcoming-events>
- Tom inquired if there a theme in terms of art for the nickel plate district. Tony said there is no specific theme besides identifying this area as an art district

Announcements:

Martin Luther King Event – February 15-18, 2020 – includes virtual and socially distant components. Parks has been handing out blank yard signs and residents can fill in their dream on the sign and post in their yards, add their address to the map, and residents can do a driving tour to check out all the signs. A Spotify playlist with speeches and period music will also be available. The Acts of Kindness challenge will be concluding. There will be a volunteer opportunity this weekend with DPW, ThisisFishers/MLK day and blog posts.

The Art Gallery at City Hall by Fishers Art Council - President Tom Rich (covered above)

Aili McGill – next meeting of the Creative Council - February 9th at 6pm

Nickel Plate Arts has art hanging at Meijer Najem, Four Day Ray and Hub & Spoke.

Note on Acts of Kindness – pictures are not required to be able to submit for the Acts of Kindness challenge.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.