

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
**Minutes**  
**January 8, 2020**

Members Present: Karen Askin  
Liliane Blom  
Therese Capal  
Patricia Dubroof  
Gary Gill  
Melissa Law  
Jesse Marciniak  
Tim Nixon

Members Absent: Mary Baltimore, Howard Jung

Councilmember Absent: Mark Pierzchala

Staff Present: Andy Lett, Betty Wisda

Karen Askin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Blossom Room at Rockville Senior Center.

**Re: Approval of the Minutes**

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes for the December 12, 2019 meeting.

**Re: Chairperson's Report**

Karen Askin reported on the following items.

1. Mary Baltimore has resigned from the Cultural Arts Commission.
2. Connor Lee will be appointed by the Mayor and Council of Rockville to serve as a member of the Cultural Arts Commission at their meeting on January 27.

**Re: Councilmember Report**

No Report.

**Re: Staff Report**

1. Martin Cohen, Partner of The Cultural Planning Group, will present the City of Rockville Arts and Culture Study to the Mayor and Council of Rockville and answer questions at their meeting on January 2 at Rockville City Hall. Karen Askin noted that she signed up to speak as the Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission for Community Forum that evening.
2. The Rockville Civic Ballet consisting of 92 dancers and 53 volunteers presented the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "The Nutcracker" on December 7, 8, 14, and 15 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 2,098 enthusiastic audience members enjoyed the quality performances of this holiday classic. Certificates of Recognition signed by the Mayor

and Council of Rockville were presented to Eleanor Simpson, Director; Erin Kwong, Associate Director; as well as Silvie Gallardo, President; Ganga Keppetipola, Treasurer; and Nancy Popson, Secretary; of the Friends of the Rockville Civic Ballet for their dedication, talent, and hard work to ensure the success of the production.

3. 250 patrons attended the opening reception for the Rockville Art League Members' Juried Winter Show held on December 8 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Rockville Art League members attended a walk through with judge Kris Loya to hear comments on the artwork on December 12 at the art gallery. Certificates of Recognition signed by the Mayor and Council were presented to Patrick Sieg, President; and Lisa Sieg, Vice President; of Rockville Art League for their dedication, talent, and hard work assisting Betty Wisda with the installations of the exhibits at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery in 2019.
4. Under the direction of John Saint Amour, the Rockville Concert Band performed "Christmas at the Cinema" to a standing room only audience on the afternoon of December 22 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
5. Under the direction of Bryan Seith, the Rockville Chorus performed "Holiday Harmonies" to a full house on the evening of December 22 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
6. The City has hired Linda Garrettson as the director and Donna Early as the Accompanist for the Rockville Chorus. The chorus will begin rehearsals for the spring concert in May on January 6 at the Social Hall. The chorus will celebrate the 29 years of service of Bryan Seith as the director of the chorus on January 26 at the Social Hall.
7. The Rockville Concert Band will begin rehearsal on January 7 at the Social Hall for the "Swinging Sunday: Annual Jazz Concert" Concert in February. The Rockville Swing Band will be the guest ensemble.
8. The Rockville Civic Ballet will begin rehearsals on January 25 at Rockcrest Ballet Center for "Swan Lake" in March.
9. Students in grades 6 through 12 who live or attend school in the corporate limits of Rockville will submit entries of 2-D or 3-D artwork by January 13 for consideration to be selected for the 2020 Rockville Student Juried Art Show. The opening reception will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on February 2 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
10. Art leagues and organizations in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC will submit proposals by January 16 for consideration to be selected for an exhibit in March 2020 or April 2020 at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

### **Re: Task Force/Committee Updates**

#### Art in Public Places

The committee for the Art in Public Places met on January 8 at Rockville City Hall. Betty Wisda provided the updates on the following items.

1. Paul Waclo will begin fabrication of the wood carving of the Helix and the six sports elements at Montrose Park on January 26.
2. Craig Kraft and Art Display Company will complete a site visit to assess the required repair work to the neon sculpture located on the façade of the Arts and Innovation Center at Rockville Town Square Plaza.

3. The City recently renovated the Walter Johnson Field at Dogwood Park as a Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Improvements Project. Based on cost savings with this project, representatives from Rockville Baseball Association and the City's Parks and Facilities staff determined that a wood carving of a life-sized image of Walter Johnson would be very appropriate for this site. Walter Johnson was a pitcher for the Washington Senators and is buried in Rockville Cemetery on Baltimore Road. The City will invite Paul Waclo, Kris Conners, Glenn Richardson, and Barry Ripin to submit proposals for this project with the following criteria.
  - a. The media would be wood.
  - b. The theme would be an image of Walter Johnson.
  - c. The completion date would be March 31, 2020. The wood carving would be installed for Opening Day of RBBA Spring Season on Saturday, April 18.
4. Betty Wisda will be sending invitations to individuals to serve on the Artist Nomination Committees for the Gateway Art Project and the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center at Project in mid-February.

#### Culture and Arts Organization Committee

Jessie Marciniak will schedule a meeting of the committee next week. The Cultural Arts Commissioners discussed briefly about subject matters for panel discussions, potential panelists, and promotion of the summit. The Commissioners are to review the press release and forward edits to Therese Capal.

The Cultural Arts Commissioners want to invite Rob DiSpirito to present the City of Rockville's contribution to the arts. Andy Lett informed the Commissioners that the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program will be presented to the Mayor and Council of Rockville at their meeting on February 24. Public Hearings on the budget will be held on March 2, March 23, and April 17.

#### **Re: Old Business**

Discussion on how to get on the Mayor and Council community forum agenda. Email: Cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or Call 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the date of the hearing. Let them know what topic you will be addressing. Up to 10 minutes is allowed.

#### **Re: New Business**

Andy Lett reported that decisions by the Cultural Arts Commissioners cannot be done via email according to the City's Attorney's Office based on the Open Meeting Act.

#### **Re: Next Meeting**

The next meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12 in the Blossom Room at Rockville Senior Center.

#### **Re: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.