

**MINUTES OF ART AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
June 15, 2023
5:30 PM**

Present	Kimberly Watkins - Chair, Travice Baldwin Obas - Vice-Chair, Chelsea Bodenhamer - Secretary, Robin Thornhill, Andrea Hall, Erin Light, Michelle Verdu Dubke
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1. Call to Order / Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 5:32PM by Chairwoman Watkins.
- Roll Call: Travice Baldwin Obas, Robin Thornhill, Kimberly Watkins and Erin Light
- Absent: Chelsea Bodenhamer and Michelle Verdu Dubke
- Staff present: Darryl Simmons (Zoning Administrator), Tanyel Aviles (Business Recruitment and Retention Manager), Vanita Keswani (Smith Gilbert Gardens) and Alois Johnson (Parks and Recreation)

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the April 6, 2023 meeting minutes by Commissioner Thornhill.
- Motion seconded by Commissioner Light.
- **All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

3. Financial Report

- Chairwoman Watkins points out the need to utilize the remainder of the KACC budget before the end of the fiscal year in September 2023. She states that according to her calculations there will be a net surplus of \$1124.00. She would like to discuss the potential usage of this surplus.
- Motion to approve the May 2023 financial report by Commissioner Light.
- Seconded the motion by Commissioner Baldwin Obas.
- **All in favor. Motion passed 4-0**

4. Old Business

A. Summer Street Update

- Commissioner Light explains that the business owner painted over the pre-approved mural that had been painted by students, and has replaced it with a similar but different mural. The students did return to help with the new mural. However, it is unfinished due to lack of time garnered from the change in design.
- Mr. Darryl Simmons states that he will go out to view the mural. However, it will be a judgement call on behalf of the City whether to allow the mural to remain. The mural may retain the same basic premise though it is not the exact design. He is unsure of the potential outcome.
- Chairwoman Watkins asks Commissioner Light if she and her students will continue work on the mural.
- Commissioner Light is unsure.
- It is the consensus of the Commission and Staff that the project will now be terminated, and all remaining work on the project will fall to the business owner.

B. Rock Garden Update

- Chairwoman Watkins states that Commissioner Light's students did a great job creating more painted rocks for the Rock Garden. The public bench has been built and installed in the garden as well. The garden is now up-to-date. However, the public is taking rocks often, and they will need to be replenished soon.
- There is a discussion regarding setting up a table in the park to allow the public to paint rocks for the garden in early Fall or during a summer event (perhaps the movie showing in July). Also, Commissioner Thornhill suggests utilizing a hashtag to promote the rock painting.
- The Commission decides the July 22, 2023 movie series night is a good time to do the rock painting event. The Commission will either buy some rocks or petition SiteOne to donate.

C. CultureFest Update

- Chairwoman Watkins states that she will submit the request to the Events Committee shortly as she has some questions related to the application.
- Ms. Tanyel Aviles recommends speaking to Mrs. Miranda Taylor or Mr. Marty Hughes regarding details of the application and process.

D. Gallery Update

- Commissioner Thornhill states there was a recent gallery opening that went well, and they are preparing for the next opening in July (potentially July 7th). The next gallery will be showcasing student artwork from a homeschooled class.

Currently, the gallery is booked through October. Past artists have sold several pieces and have been thrilled with the opportunity.

- Mr. Simmons requests artist feedback on the City's social media.
- Commissioner Thornhill also asks that any Commissioner available to help with the gallery and its promotion please let her know.

E. Sculpture Installation Update

- Mr. Simmons states that there have been delays with sculpture installation at Depot Park. However, there will be a logistics meeting to discuss it. He states that it should be easy to accomplish as all they really need to install is the pad and the sculpture itself. He will keep the Commission up-to-date on progress.
- There is a brief conversation regarding repeating the same method of sculpture acquisition utilizing the upcoming 2024 budget.
- Ms. Vanita Keswani states that she will approach current artists regarding this matter.

F. Big Shanty Art Show Discussion/Follow-up

- Chairwoman Watkins states that visibility was low for the art showing in Studio 22 during the Big Shanty Festival. The bubble machine and Commissioner promotion did enhance visibility. The student participants and their families enjoyed the showing, and the setup was great. However, overall, visibility remained low. She suggests acquiring a spot for a table to create more visibility and direct people to the art showing.
- Ms. Keswani suggests a change of venue entirely to a more visible spot might also be useful.

5. New Business

A. KACC Email Changes

- Ms. Aviles explains that there is a new agenda and minutes program. This program will send the agenda and minutes to the Commissioner's City emails. She suggests the Commission make sure their City emails are functional and accessible.

B. Schedule Headshots

- Commissioner Thornhill will be taking headshots for the Commission. The Commissioners coordinate a date for the photos.

C. Discuss Budgeting priorities for the remainder of the year: Airbrush supplies,

Storybook Walk, Parliament of Owls

- Chairwoman Watkins suggests three options for utilizing the final amount of the KACC budget: Airbrush supplies, Storybook Walk, and Parliament of Owls.
 1. Commissioner Light states that she has found an airbrushing kit on Amazon for \$130.00 but it does not include the face paint. The next kit (that includes everything) is \$150.00. There were some more expensive options. However, the kit for \$150.00 includes everything they will need.
 2. Commissioner Thornhill explains the needs of the Storybook Walk. She states that the most expensive aspect is the metal sign posts for the book pages. On Amazon, a one (1) time purchase of twenty (20) signs will average roughly \$600.00. They will also have to get two large story books (18X24) for each showing. That will run between \$40.00 to \$60.00 per showing. Commissioner Thornhill states that they could get sponsorships and donations toward the project. She also suggests alternative options at various price points. However, the Commission finds the initial proposal most effective. They conclude the first showcase will cost a minimum of \$650.00. They then discuss sponsorship/donation options, and alternative printing methods.
 3. Chairwoman Watkins re-introduces the Parliament of Owls project. She suggests two (2) different types of owl figures to purchase. The Commission decides to purchase fifty-one (51), eleven (11) inch tall owl figures for \$460.00.
- The Commission decides to look for sponsors/donations for the Storybook Walk and proceed with all three (3) projects.
 - Chairwoman asks for a motion to purchase the airbrush kit for \$150.00 on Amazon.
 - Commissioner Thornhill motions. Commissioner Baldwin Obas seconds. All in favor. 4-0.
 - Chairwoman Watkins asks for a motion to approve a budget not to exceed \$600.00 to purchase Storybook Walk signs.
 - Commissioner Baldwin Obas motions. Commissioner Thornhill seconds. All in favor. 4-0.
 - Chairwoman Watkins asks for a motion to approve a budget not to exceed \$500.00 for the Parliament of Owls project.
 - Commissioner Light motions. Commissioner Thornhill seconds. All in favor. 4-0.

D. Pinwheels for Peace Scheduling

- Commissioner Thornhill states that the official Pinwheels for Peace Day will be Thursday, September 21, 2023. The Commission will hold a pinwheel decorating event.
- The Commission discusses the execution of the event, and the division of duties.

- Chairwoman Watkins consults with Mr. Alois Johnson regarding the installation of the pinwheels. Mr. Johnson would like the Commission to send him a proposal.
- The Commission will also ask local schools to create pinwheels for the event.

E. Updates from Sister Cities, KEEP, and KBA

- Commissioner Baldwin Obas describes the purpose of the Sister Cities Commission and the potential cities Kennesaw is considering partnering with that are economically compatible. She describes the KEEP Commission's responsibilities, and takes suggestions regarding topics and concerns to bring to the Commission. She also describes her interactions with the Kennesaw Business Association (KBA), and invites the other Commissioners to attend occasional meetings. She suggests promoting KACC projects (such as Culturefest and the Storybook Walk) to the KBA in hopes of partnerships/sponsorships/donations.

F. Representing KACC at Local Art Events

- Chairwoman Watkins states that she would like the Commission to be more present at local art events to make more connections and further the KACC's reach. She also suggests the KACC be more active on social media.

6. Public Comment

No Public Comment

7. Adjourn

- Chairwoman Watkins calls for a motion to adjourn.
- Commissioner Thornhill motions. Commissioner Light seconds. All in favor. 4-0.
- Adjourned at 6:46pm