

**MINUTES OF ART AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
July 20, 2023
5:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Pat Ferris Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Antonio Jones Councilmember Trey Sinclair City Clerk Lea Alvarez City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr.
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1. Call to Order / Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Watkins.
- Roll call: Travice Baldwin Obas (late), Robin Thornhill, Chelsea Bodenhamer, Michelle Verdu Dubke, Erin Light and Kimberly Watkins
- Absent: None
- Staff present: Darryl Simmons (Zoning Administrator) and Vanita Keswani (Smith Gilbert Gardens)

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- Amendment to previous KACC minutes. Commissioner Bodenhamer was not in attendance.
- Motion to approve the June 15, 2023 meeting minutes with amendment by Commissioner Thornhill.
- Motion seconded by Commissioner Light.
- **All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

3. Financial Report

- Chairwoman Watkins observes that there is only one change to last month's financial statement, the purchase of the owls for the parliament of owls project.
- Motioned to approve the financial report by Commissioner Bodenhamer.
- Seconded the motion by Commissioner Thornhill.
- **All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

4. Old Business

A. Gallery Update

- Commissioner Thornhill updates the commission on the most recent gallery opening of student art. She states there was a large crowd of students and parents in attendance. The KACC approached the senior artists about doing a senior showcase to promote their art as many are pursuing a college education in art.
- The next gallery showing will begin August 11, 2023 at 5:30pm. The gallery is booked through October, and they will need more artists for November and moving forward. Commissioner Thornhill requests that the commission continue to send artist suggestions to her to fill gallery slots.
- Chairperson Watkins states that the commission would like to have somewhere around twenty (20) framed portraits of art from around town to stay in storage in case there is a gap in the gallery. She suggests buying inexpensive frames, and taking and printing the pictures themselves.

B. CultureFest Update

- Chairperson Watkins states that she has submitted the event application for the Culture Festival.
- Mr. Darryl Simmons asks where the event will take place.
- Chairperson Watkins states that the plan is to host the event at the new amphitheater in Fall 2024.
- (Commissioner Baldwin Obas arrives)

C. Rock Garden - July 22

- Commissioner Verdu Dubke states that she has several rocks that were donated to the KACC.
- The commission discusses the rock painting event scheduled for the upcoming Saturday movie night at Swift-Catrell Park.

D. Pinwheels for Peace - Sept 21

- Commissioner Thornhill will submit her application for the event shortly.
- Chairperson Watkins explains to newer members that there must be a proposal form for each project that is sent to City Staff for review and approval.

E. Purchases Update

- Chairperson Watkins states that the owls have arrived for the parliament of owls project, and she anticipates the budget for upcoming approved purchases.

F. Parliament of Owls

- Commissioner Light will talk to KSU staff to determine whether or not they will participate in the project. If not, the commission will approach local highschools.
- They aim to have the owls on display for the month of November.

G. Storybook Walk Status

- The commission is waiting for staff member, Tanyel Aviles, to return to order the sign frames/posts for the storybook walk. The local library will purchase the books, choose the books, the layout and the preparation of the pages.
- Chairperson Watkins states that, in talks with the library, the library would like their logos on every sign. The commission determines which posts will be the best option to display the logos.
- Mr. Simmons asks where the storybook walk will be located.
- Commissioner Watkins states that it will follow the paths in Depot Park.
- Mr. Simmons states that City Staff has had meetings regarding Depot Park. He states that the City is concerned with what will go in Depot Park because of the enormous investment into the park. The City has already approved certain things for the park including way finding signs and designs. He states that there is a certain kind of consistency and theme the City wants in the park. The City has stated they don't want various things in the park that don't match the theme or design.
- Chairperson Watkins states that she has done a proposal for the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the director was agreeable to the project.
- Mr. Simmons states that the director she spoke with is no longer with the City.
- Chairperson Watkins suggests moving the storybook walk to Swift Cantrell Park.
- Mr. Simmons suggests that the commission re-submit the project to city staff for review and presentation.
- Ms. Vanita Keswani states that a visual proposal should help promote the project.
- The Commission discusses options for bringing the project into consistency with the City's vision.
- Mr. Simmons reinforces the importance of a proper proposal, and what to do going forward.
- Ms. Keswani asks if there will be a kick-off for the project after its completion.
- Chairperson Watkins states that there would be.
- Mr. Simmons discusses timing due to the changes at the park.
- The commission decides to wait on ordering any signage until the project can be approved.

H. Free Art Gallery Update

- No movement on this project as of yet.

I. Headshots July 20 @ 7pm

- The commission decides to postpone the headshots.

5. New Business

- Commissioner Thornhill suggests potentially broadcasting an artist podcast.
- Ms. Keswani suggests attending an already established podcast as opposed to starting from scratch to grow a base.
- The commission discusses the idea and potential equipment options.

6. Public Comment

- None

7. Staff Comment

- Mr. Simmons states that he has been communicating with Rebecca Graham, Communications Director, and she requests that the commission send her any content before posting. She will be sending the commission suggestions on changes that need to be made to the social media and website accounts.
- Mr. Simmons also states that there is a candidate for membership for the commission. The candidate will be there to visit next month.
- Mr. Simmons requests that the commission stays on track with the proposal forms, and suggests that they keep the City in the loop with meetings with City officials about projects.
- Mr. Simmons also requests that the commission get reacquainted with the KACC master plan, and be prepared to discuss it for the next meeting.
- Ms. Keswani suggests prioritizing projects to plan for the future.
- The commission discusses which student art installations they may want to purchase from Smith Gilbert Garden's current collection.

8. Adjourn

- Adjourned at 6:11pm