



Commission Members
Erin Light
Chelsea Bodenhamer
Michelle Verdu Dubke
Rachel Mangum

Art and Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2024 5:30 PM
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

A. Call to Order at 5:30pm

- Roll Call: Erin Light, Michelle Verdu Dubke, and Rachel Mangum
- Absent: Chelsea Bodenhamer
- Staff Present: Darryl Simmons, Vanita Keswani and Tanyel Aviles
- Guests: Sean Mills and North-Jackson Searles

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of Special Call Meeting Minutes - 08/31/23

- Motion to approve 08/31/23 Meeting Minutes by Erin Light.
- Second by Michelle Verdu Dubke.
- All in Favor, 3-0.

3. Financial Report

A. Approval of Financial Report - 01/31/24

- Ms. Tanyel Aviles presents the financial report. The financial account stands at \$8,685.01 with an expenditure of 314.99 for gallery supplies and the renewal of the website domain.
- Motion to approve the financial report from 01/31/24 by Michelle Verdu Dubke.
- Second by Erin Light.
- All in Favor, 3-0.

4. Old Business

A. None

The next scheduled meeting of the Kennesaw Arts & Culture Commission will be
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

5. New Business

A. Renewal of Art Exhibit at 2871 N MAIN ST

- Mr. Darryl Simmons introduces the renewal of the Art Exhibit at 2871 N Main St. The art exhibit was approved in 2023 for a six (6) month showcase, and the property owner is seeking a renewal of the exhibit. Staff recommends renewal.
- Motion to approve the renewal of the art exhibit at 2871 N MAIN ST by Erin Light.
- Second by Michelle Verdu Dubke.
- All in Favor, 3-0.

6. Public Comment

- Mr. Sean Mills, a local artist and artist of the exhibit at 2871 N Main St, explains the financial cost of producing such artworks as the mural at 2871 N Main St, and how to build in certain costs for future projects. He hopes to expand art in Kennesaw to other buildings and seeks KACC and Mayor and Council guidance with the process.
- Mr. North-Jackson Searles, a potential KACC candidate, introduces himself. He expresses his desire to serve and gives a brief description of his background.

7. Staff Comment

- Mr. Darryl Simmons explains the Staff process of vetting and choosing volunteers for the City's many commissions. He also explains that Staff has been discussing the incorporation of art with developers, and other areas of funding that may soon be advantageous for the KACC. Staff has been working diligently on the back end during the past many months to streamline approval processes for public art and making progress easier for public art and the KACC.
- Ms. Vanita Keswani discusses public art and the Kennesaw community.
- Mr. Darryl Simmons states that Staff is also working on enhancing media presence around public art, and future projects to promote the city.
- Ms. Michelle Verdu Dubke speaks to the commission regarding the displacement of Greenlight Studios in Kennesaw. They are currently in need of a space and may have to move outside the city.
- Mr. Simmons asks that they speak with him regarding this matter.
- Ms. Aviles offers to find available spaces within the city to present to Greenlight Studios.
- Ms. Erin Light asks if there is the potential for a new gallery space outside of the Ben Robertson Community Center, and whether or not any new development would be amenable to create or offer one.
- Mr. Darryl Simmons discusses the challenges currently facing developers, and the

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potential of working with businesses to display public art.

- Ms. Light states a local artist has reached out to her about applying to display their art in the gallery at the Ben Robertson Community Center. Ms. Light has volunteered to take over the duties related to the gallery as left by a previous Commissioner.
- Ms. Light reminds the commission of the approval for an airbrush kit that was awaiting the new budget year.
- Ms. Aviles will review the previous minutes and find options for purchase to be reviewed at the next scheduled KACC meeting.
- Mr. Simmons and Ms. Keswani discuss the future of the Kennesaw State University Master Craftsman Program, and potential future projects in collaboration with them.
- Ms. Light will also continue work on the Kindness Rock Garden in Swift-Cantrell Park and employ her student volunteers to create more rocks.
- There is a brief update discussion on the progress of the new amphitheater.
- Mr. Mills also suggests applying public art to construction fences.

8. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Erin Light.
- Second by Michelle Verdu Dubke.
- All in favor, 3-0.
- Adjourned at 6:28pm