



**MINUTES
CITY OF COVINGTON
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, October 8, 2015

**City Hall, Council Chambers
16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100, Covington**

CALL TO ORDER

Lesli Cohan called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gini Cook, Ed White, Lesli Cohan, Jennifer Harjehausen, Leslie Spero, Tyler Bykonen and Paul Selland

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Pat Patterson, Recreation Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve was made by Gini and seconded by Jennifer; all in favor.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the September minutes by Lesli; seconded by Ed; all in favor.

CITIZEN/GUEST/STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

CONTINUED BUSINESS

- Special Arts Commission meeting will be held on Nov. 19th because the State of the City presentation will be on Nov. 12th.
- Joint meeting of the Arts Commission and City Council will be on Tuesday, October 27th, 6 pm.
- Public Art Update: Pat has negotiated a new lease-to-purchase contract with SeaHorse sculptor Ben Dye, which City Attorney Sara Springer is reviewing. Pat also informed the group that he had worked out an arrangement with Mark Zender, Marketing teacher and Deca advisor at Kentwood High School for that group to work on a marketing plan for fund raising to purchase SeaHorse.
- Student Art Show: Pat will contact Black Diamond Elementary, Horizon Elementary & Meridian Elementary to find out if they'd care to participate by having their students' art hung in Covington. Art will go up the weekend of 2/27-28 and come down 4/2-3. Art will be due to the City by 2/10 (President's week occurs between then and installation).

Pat will touch base with the schools via e-mail to test if receipt is successful. He'll also add PTA presidents to the distribution list.

- arts@covingtonwa.gov is operational.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pat shared changes made to the arts portion of the City's website. Gini agreed to draft some additional language for the site.
- Ed shared his draft presentation for the Joint Study Session with Council. Pat will create the agenda based on that; Ed will tweak his presentation per comments from the Commissioners.
- Display Art Program: Pat shared with the group that City Attorney Sara Springer had expressed an opinion about the Commissions' process of selecting artists for the Rotating Exhibit, essentially stating that "jurying" the selection impinges on the artists' freedom of speech, and the fact that the venue is the city office building apparently makes this an especially important issue. Pat stated that Sara's advice was that when faced with more applicants than space/time allowed that the Commission should employ a lottery to select exhibitors rather than use their collective opinions about what would be desirable. A rather lively discussion took place with the result that the Commission would like to hear directly from Sara the rationale that precipitated her conclusion, and of course, whether this is a suggestion or a mandate. While it appears that the current art policy allows that the Arts Commission may select art, it was also pointed out that the policy as it stands is not up-to-date with current law. Pat will see about getting Sara to a meeting to discuss this with the group.

CITIZEN/COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS

None

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Annual Retreat

GROUP MEMORY

Group Memory was approved by all Commission members.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.