

Public Arts Commission of Oxford
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 4:30PM

Minutes of the meeting

Present: Steve Sullivan, Chair; Edna Southard, Vice-Chair; Robert Benson, Recording Secretary; Stefanie Hilles, Carole Katz, Norm Krumpe

1. The virtual meeting of the Public Arts Commission of Oxford (PACO) was **called to order by Chair Steve Sullivan at 4:34PM.**

2. The **Agenda** was approved.

3. The **Minutes** of the November 10, 2020 PACO virtual meeting were approved.

4. New Business

A. Update on Current Art Events

- i. Stefanie Hilles reported that she had contacted Mike Dreisbach regarding the proposed bicycle rack at the Oxford Police Department Building. Mr. Dreisbach said he would contact the Historic Architecture and Preservation Commission get their approval for the placement of the bike rack. At Steve Sullivan's request, Stefanie said that she would review the project to see if PACO needed to do anything else to get approval for the project.
- ii. Steve Sullivan reported that in his capacity as PACO Chair, he had been invited to interview candidates for the position of Director of the Oxford Community Arts Center. He asked: "How would you interface with the city and PACO?" All three finalists stated that they would want to be supportive. He also asked if they would want to participate in our projects in such areas as marketing and artist searches.

B. Follow-up on City's CARES proposals

In regard to questions raised about the relationship of PACO to the City's interns who met with PACO at its November meeting, a long discussion ensued. Topics included the generation and selection of projects, the acquisition of funding, the calls for artists and other issues that had been part of PACO meetings in many instances from the beginning. Steve Sullivan explained these issues and answered questions about policy, history, and scarcity of projects. Steve Sullivan suggested that anyone with concerns about these issues needed to step up and offer to take charge of one or more projects in order to establish precedent and a procedural model.

5. Old Business

A. Update on the Relocation of Ella Cope's Mural

Because the Rodbros plan to build on the vacant site on the corner of High St. and College Ave., and have applied for a building permit, the mural must be moved sooner than was initially expected.

The Sigma Chi Foundation expressed the desire to move the mural to the north side of its building on the east side of Uptown Park. This would be accompanied by a plaque sponsored by Equal Justice commemorating lynchings that took place in Oxford in the 19th century.

Carole Katz pointed out that we need to be sure there is no conflict between the Cope mural and other installations and that the mural would not be upstaged by any other commemorative piece.

Carole Katz also suggested that we need to avoid any possible vandalism by hanging the Cope mural high enough that it is out of reach from ground level. It was agreed that the Sigma Chi location would be more central to the history and civic life of Oxford than the originally proposed site at the Municipal Building. Of course, HAPC would have to approve, but that would be likely to happen.

Steve Sullivan entertained a motion to support the relocation of the Cope mural to the Sigma Chi building. Norm Krumpke made the motion, Carole Katz seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

It was also decided that PACO would discuss the commemoration of lynchings at its January meeting.

B. OCAC Director Search and Insurance

This was already covered (above).

C. Mission and Vision Statements

The mission and vision statements were put together by Steve Sullivan and are essentially a rearticulation of the enabling document in bullet points derived from that text. A few edits have already been done but more are needed.

The missions and vision statements should be simple enough so that they allow us to move in concrete ways and form a strategic plan, how to build an arts community and be a transformational force in the wider community.

By the end of the month, we should edit and finish these documents. Comments and edits should be found and done in the PACO Google Docs folder.

We probably need to address the issue of public safety.

The possibility of a map of potential arts sites in town was raised. Edna Southard noted that HAPC has a list of historic buildings whose external form must be preserved. This could become the basis of an arts site map.

Edna Southard suggested that we consult with City Planner Sam Perry so that our preferred sites could be located on the historic district maps. The most recent Oxford Comprehensive Plan does account for art, but this needs articulation, especially since a new comprehensive plan is under development. The 2008 plan was published in a booklet, but the new plan will probably be published online for flexibility of revision as well as distribution. The new plan will be released initially in 2021 with more added in a second release in 2022 or 2023.

Steve Sullivan requested that Edna Southard ask Sam Perry for the pertinent maps so we can understand our boundaries for siting art projects. Joe Prescher suggested that PACO should contribute to this new plan.

Adjournment: The meeting was **adjourned at 5:45PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Benson, Recording Secretary