

**MINUTES  
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
January 16, 2019**

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room of Town Hall, 39 N. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kristien Foss, Chair  
Sandy Schlehr, Vice Chair  
Natalie Weeks  
Brigitte Grubb  
Carole Milan  
Cheryl Manns  
Jeanne Close  
Pat Riley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Angela Robertson, Economic Development Coordinator  
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development  
L. Jesse Bane, Town Administrator  
Philip Einhorn, Town Commissioner  
Elizabeth Janney, Bel Air Patch  
Catherine Butrim, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2018

Ms. Weeks moved and Ms. Riley seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting as amended with the following correction:

“Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2018” should correctly read “Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2018.”

The motion carried.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Weeks moved and Ms. Milan seconded the motion to re-elect Ms. Foss as Chair and Ms. Schlehr as Vice Chair of CAC for 2019.

The motion carried.

FY19 Budget Review

Ms. Robertson stated that the FY19 budget balance, including the projected expenses to sponsor the events on the calendar, is \$3,264.83. She stated that, if CAC decides to replace the

cost of postcards for the Irishman's Chorale (at a cost of \$125.00) with a social media post boost and to move Uncle Pete's performance (at a cost of \$375.00) to a July or August movie, the FY19 budget balance will be \$3,764.83. The members present agreed to make these changes to the projected expenses for the FY19 budget year.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### Door Sculpture Lighting

Ms. Robertson stated that Steve Kline replaced the bulbs lighting the door sculpture with LED lights and cleaned the lenses and also adjusted the angle of the lighting to better display the door sculpture. The members present agreed to send a note of thanks to Mr. Kline. Ms. Foss stated that she will send the note to Mr. Kline.

### Tower Mural

Ms. Weeks stated that she spoke with Tom Cochran, the muralist from Frederick, and he is unable to fit the Tower mural into his schedule. Mr. Cochran highly recommended Deanne Lenehan ([www.lenehanstudios.com](http://www.lenehanstudios.com)). Ms. Weeks advised that she and Ms. Robertson met with Ms. Lenehan on Monday in the Town, and she is available to paint the mural this spring. Ms. Weeks advised that they did visit the Tower and measured the existing windows. Ms. Robertson advised that Ms. Lenehan will send her information about the cost of painting the mural within the next few days. Ms. Weeks advised that Ms. Lenehan recommended painting the mural on thin aluminum in her studio so as not to disrupt parking on the Tower lot. Ms. Weeks advised that Ms. Lenehan will not create a concept for the mural until a contract is signed and a one-third deposit is received. She stated that Ms. Lenehan is interested in any ideas that the CAC members envision for the mural. Ms. Weeks stated that she envisions one of the windows depicting a storage cabinet or pantry with food, utensils and cookbooks. Ms. Grubb suggested depicting shelving with meats and a bowl of pasta or another dish. Ms. Robertson stated that Mario Buontempo suggested that one of the windows could depict his father.

Ms. Robertson stated that a meeting should be held with Renato and Mario Buontempo after a cost estimate is received from Ms. Lenehan. Ms. Foss and Ms. Weeks stated that they are available to meet with the Buontempos in February.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Black Eyed Suzie's Mural – Jesse Bane

Mr. Bane stated that the Town will pay toward the cost of the newly updated mural that was recently painted at Black Eyed Suzie's. Mr. Bane advised that he does not know at this time what amount the Town will pay toward the mural, but it will not have a negative impact on the funding CAC receives from the Town.

Ms. Weeks inquired what is being done with the mural at Black Eyed Suzie's. Mr. Bane advised that the mural currently on the building is the one that was approved by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Mr. Bane explained that the original mural was painted on the building by the former owner without seeking permission from HPC. Mr. Bane stated that Brian Acquavella, the owner of Black Eyed Suzie's, painted over that mural because he claims he did not know the front portion of the building was historic. Mr. Bane stated that Mr. Acquavella has invoices totaling over \$20,000.00 for two (2) attempts to remove the paint. Mr. Bane stated that, because the current mural is one that was required by HPC, the Town should assist with the cost of that mural. Mr. Bane stated that HPC prohibited Mr. Acquavella from painting the name of Black Eyed Suzie's on the historic portion of the building.

Ms. Milan inquired if there is a method for how the Town will arrive at the total amount that will be contributed to the mural. Mr. Bane stated that Mr. Acquavella will be making an application for façade improvement funds, and he also wants to obtain copies of all the invoices to see what Mr. Acquavella has invested in total before arriving at a figure.

Ms. Grubb inquired if the Town has any regulations for what can and cannot be done to historic buildings. Mr. Bane advised that the brickwork should never have been painted, and there are codes and regulations for historic buildings.

Alfred Hilton, Medal of Honor Recipient – Jesse Bane

Mr. Bane stated that Alfred B. Hilton is one of only 16 African-American Civil War soldiers to be awarded the Medal of Honor, and he is the only Harford County resident to be awarded the Medal of Honor. He stated that the American Legion Post #55 on Bond Street created a committee for a fund to place a memorial statue or sculpture in front of the building to honor Alfred Hilton. Mr. Bane advised that the American Legion is seeking to partner with the

Town, and Mayor Susan Burdette thought it would be a good idea to ask CAC if they would like to partner with the American Legion as a sponsor for the sculpture.

Ms. Milan inquired if CAC would have any input about what the artwork would be. Mr. Bane stated that the American Legion does want the Town to participate in the decision. Mr. Bane stated that there is not a great amount of space in front of the American Legion, so that will govern what the artwork will be. Mr. Bane stated that he will send the contact information for the commander of the American Legion Post to Ms. Robertson.

Mr. Einhorn inquired if Mr. Bane knows of any businesses that would participate in the cost. Mr. Bane stated that he does not know of any and that a decision like that would be made by the American Legion.

Mr. Bane shared information about the background and history of Alfred Hilton.

Ms. Robertson stated that, several years ago, she spoke to a gentleman who was interested in creating a memorial for Alfred Hilton, but it was not planned for Bel Air. She stated that the Route 22 bridge over I 95 is dedicated to him and there is also an Alfred B. Hilton Park in Havre de Grace.

Mr. Bane stated that there is a memorial at the cemetery in Baltimore where Alfred Hilton is buried.

Ms. Milan stated that she would like to invite the committee members from the American Legion to a future CAC meeting to discuss the project.

#### Armory Sponsorship – Ballet Chesapeake

Ms. Robertson stated that Ballet Chesapeake has inquired about sponsorship for the rental of the Armory for a community outreach event they have booked at the Armory on May 11. The event is a ballet, *Carnival of Animals*, based around poetry with narration. She advised that Ballet Chesapeake also would like to include a dance class for young audience members after the performance. Their goal is to have at least 50 children in attendance. Ms. Robertson stated that Ballet Chesapeake will market the event through their website, newsletter and social media. She advised that this event does meet CAC's criteria for sponsoring events at the Armory as it is a free event presented by a Harford County based nonprofit arts group.

Ms. Riley moved and Ms. Weeks seconded the motion to sponsor *Carnival of Animals* by Ballet Chesapeake at the Bel Air Armory by paying the Armory rental fee of \$600.00.

The motion carried.

### Maryland Arts Day

Ms. Robertson stated that Maryland Arts Day in Annapolis is on February 14, but she is unable to attend. Ms. Weeks stated that she is available to attend. Ms. Robertson stated that she will register Ms. Weeks to attend.

### **OTHER:**

#### A&E District Update

Ms. Robertson shared the most current newsletter from the Historical Society of Harford County and a special publication about the history of the Bel Air Roller Rink.

Ms. Robertson stated that the date to have students film the A&E District for the Maryland State Arts Council has been rescheduled for later this spring.

Ms. Weeks reported that the Free Little Library is thriving and that she replaced the Christmas books with other books.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Schlehr moved and Ms. Riley seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

The motion carried.