

**MINUTES**  
**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
**January 19, 2022**

The Cultural Arts Commission virtual meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting (235048637).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kristien Foss, Chair  
Sandy Schlehr, Vice Chair  
Jeanne Close  
Carole Milan  
Pat Fielder  
Peg Lucas

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Angela Robertson, Economic Development Coordinator  
Donna Kahoe, Town Commissioner  
Catherine Butrim, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

Welcome to New CAC Member

Ms. Foss welcomed new member, Peg Lucas, to CAC on behalf of all the members.

Ms. Lucas thanked everyone for the warm welcome. She stated that she has lived in Bel Air just about all of her life. She recently stepped down from the Historic Preservation Commission after serving since its inception, and she has worked with the Downtown Alliance for many years on the Design Committee. Ms. Lucas stated that she has much appreciation for the projects that are coming to fruition in Bel Air, with the efforts of CAC being a perfect example.

Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2021

Ms. Milan moved and Ms. Schlehr seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting.

The motion carried.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Robertson inquired if any CAC members would like to serve as Chair or Vice Chair. Ms. Robertson advised that Ms. Foss and Ms. Schlehr have agreed to continue to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of CAC for 2022. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Foss called for a vote.

The members present voted unanimously to reelect Ms. Foss as Chair and Ms. Schlehr as Vice Chair of CAC for 2022.

## FY22 Budget Review

Ms. Robertson reported that CAC recently committed to sponsoring the Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band & Comedy Show on March 30 at the Armory in the amount of \$500.00.

Other expenditures include \$200.54 for the holiday gathering.

The remaining balance in **Marketing** is \$1,999.46.

The remaining balance in **Public Art** is \$2,000.00.

Ms. Foss inquired if Ms. Robertson would send those numbers to the members. Ms. Robertson stated that she will email the FY22 budget to the members.

Ms. Close inquired if funds from the Marketing account can be moved to the Public Art account if needed. Ms. Robertson advised that funds may be shifted from one account to the other if needed.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### Utility Box Public Art

Ms. Robertson reported that she reached out to Jamie Heater, the Arts and Entertainment District Manager in Salisbury. She reported that Salisbury has a large program for utility box public art, and they are scheduled to meet at the end of this month. Ms. Robertson reported that Ms. Heater advised that the largest obstacle is to obtain permission from the local utility company and that that permission should be obtained before any other planning takes place.

Ms. Close inquired where the utility boxes are located. Ms. Schlehr advised that most of the utility boxes are located on Main Street, and they are all metal and attached to poles. Ms. Schlehr advised that there are not as many on Bond Street. Ms. Robertson noted that this type of utility box which is mounted to a pole is not the same type as is used for Salisbury's public art project. She displayed photos of a few of the utility boxes in Salisbury.

Ms. Fielder advised that this type of project could be temporary as technology is always changing, and it is possible that BGE could take a different route with utility boxes and delivering services after CAC has invested funds in having them painted.

Ms. Lucas advised that the location of the boxes and how they fit into their environment would need to be taken into consideration because it might be a distraction to put a design onto some utility boxes along streets with a higher traffic volume.

Ms. Fielder suggested that the concept of historic Bel Air buildings be applied to the utility boxes if CAC decides to move forward.

Ms. Robertson advised that the members should contact her with any questions for Ms. Heater by the middle of next week.

Ms. Fielder inquired if BGE has an arts program that would possibly subsidize painting the utility boxes.

#### Bel Air High School Public Art

Ms. Robertson displayed photos of the rear wall of Hinkle Automotive, which is what the Bel Air High School (BAHS) students see from the cafeteria windows. She advised that CAC previously discussed a mural that promotes diversity for this location.

Ms. Robertson reported that she reached out to St. Mathew Lutheran Church pastor Blaise Sedney, who owns the wall printer discussed at a meeting in FY21, to inquire if the wall is an acceptable surface and if he is interested in partnering with CAC. He has not yet responded. She advised that the BAHS students could create a small work of art, and the wall printer could transfer that artwork. Ms. Robertson advised that she will reach out to the building owner if a decision is made to move forward with the project.

Ms. Foss suggested that the subject matter could be something related to making good decisions as many buses with sports teams from other schools travel by that wall.

Ms. Fielder suggested that a surface other than the wall itself could be used to create a type of billboard rather than a fixed mural.

Ms. Robertson advised that this might be an FY23 project, as the BAHS art students are currently working on a project in partnership with the Lions Club, which will be coming before CAC for approval this spring.

Ms. Lucas advised that she will send information regarding the ownership of the Hinkle Automotive building to Ms. Robertson.

#### Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band & Comedy Show

Ms. Robertson reported that CAC voted via email in December to sponsor the \$500.00 artist fee for the Ain't Misbehavin' Big Band & Comedy Show on March 30 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Armory. Tickets will be \$10.00, and the event will be open to the public. Currently, there are no capacity restrictions at the Armory, but masks are required.

Ms. Milan inquired if the CAC members should be present to greet attendees. The members present agreed that this is a good idea. Ms. Robertson advised that the table with the CAC, A&E District and other arts-related brochures could be set up at this event.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### FY22 Planning

Ms. Robertson advised that with the funds remaining in the FY22 budget, the CAC members should begin discussing projects for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Robertson advised that the Bel Air Lions Club will be presenting a mural to be painted on the shed at the Kelly Avenue parking lot to CAC for approval. The Lions Club will be partnering with the BAHS Arts Honor Society and is not seeking funding for the project.

Ms. Robertson reported that the project at the former Sears location at Harford Mall will require an Art Amenity in the amount of \$10,000.00. The developers will be submitting a proposal for CAC's approval. They are not seeking funding.

Ms. Robertson reported that the Office Street Pocket Park project is expected to be completed this spring which will include installation of the kinetic sculpture purchased by CAC.

Ms. Close suggested that CAC plan ahead for the completion of the new Police Department building with a sponsorship for public art. Ms. Robertson advised that the new building is slated to be completed in 2023.

Ms. Robertson advised that the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Harford County will be celebrated in 2023, and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Bel Air will be celebrated in 2024.

Ms. Close suggested that CAC reach out to the owner of the Nest on Main to inquire if she is still interested in a mural. Ms. Robertson advised that she will be meeting with her on Friday and will inquire about the mural.

## **OTHER:**

### A&E District Update

Ms. Robertson reported that Maryland Arts Day will be held virtually on February 17 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. She advised that the cost is \$10.00 to attend, and the CAC budget will cover the cost for any members who would like to attend Maryland Arts Day. Ms. Robertson advised that she will send an email to the members, and they may reply to that email to sign up. She advised that Jessica Cleaver of Harford County Cultural Arts Board (HCCAB) will present on Harford County's behalf.

Ms. Fielder suggested that CAC send a personal note of appreciation to Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan for her advocacy for the arts. Ms. Robertson advised that she will set up a reminder to send this note in August or September of this year.

Ms. Robertson reported that over 4,800 people visited the train garden during Winter Wonderland. She advised that the A&E District has a solid lead for a location to bring the train garden back to Winter Wonderland in 2022. Ms. Milan suggested that CAC send a personal note of appreciation to Joe Bragg for volunteering to bring his train garden to Winter Wonderland. Ms. Robertson advised that Mr. Bragg will be recognized at the February 7 Town Board meeting, and she will send a letter of appreciation to him from CAC.

Next Meeting

The February CAC meeting will be held virtually on February 16.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Milan moved and Ms. Fielder seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

The motion carried.