

**MINUTES**  
**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
**May 18, 2022**

The Cultural Arts Commission meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room at the Bel Air Armory, 37 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kristien Foss, Chair  
Sandy Schlehr, Vice Chair  
Natalie Weeks  
Pat Fielder  
Carole Milan  
Peg Lucas  
Nicki Jergensen  
Brigitte Grubb

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Angela Robertson, Economic Development Coordinator  
Trish Heidenreich, Director of Economic Development  
Donna Kahoe, Town Commissioner  
Elizabeth Janney, *Bel Air Patch*  
Catherine Butrim, Recording Secretary

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2022

Ms. Grubb moved and Ms. Lucas seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting.

The motion carried.

FY22 Budget Review

Ms. Robertson reported expenditures for the Belle Aire Market sponsorship and for the cost of tickets for Ms. Schlehr, Ms. Lucas, Ms. Weeks and Ms. Jergensen to attend the Wyeth on Wyeth event on May 20.

The remaining balance in **Marketing** is \$25.46.

The remaining balance in **Public Art** is \$0.00.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Office Street Pocket Park Update

Ms. Robertson reported that the Planning Department has been working with Harford County, which has been finishing up some work on or around Office Street. When that work is

complete, the Town will begin work on the pocket park. The pocket park should be completed by June 30, and the kinetic sculpture sponsored by CAC should be installed by the end of June.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Shops at Harford Mall Public Art Amenity

Ms. Robertson reported that the Shops at Harford Mall are required to contribute \$10,000.00 worth of public art or make a contribution of equal value to the Public Art Amenity Fund. She reported that the Shops at Harford Mall (developer is SJC Ventures) has submitted a sculpture for CAC's approval. The sculpture will be a permanent installation and is an off-the-shelf piece from Cricket Forge (<https://www.cricketforge.com>) by Jonathan Paschall, co-owner and COO of Cricket Forge. The cost of the project is \$4,799.00 (plus taxes and installation). Ms. Robertson advised that any amount of the \$10,000.00 remaining after installation will be contributed to the Public Art Amenity Fund. Ms. Robertson advised that she does not know how much the installation cost will be.

Ms. Fielder inquired if the developer is allowed choose whether they will install a work of art or contribute \$10,000.00 to the Public Art Amenity Fund. Ms. Robertson advised that the developer chooses if they will install an artwork on their property or contribute to the Public Art Amenity Fund.

Ms. Robertson reported that the Shops at Harford Mall chose a horse sculpture to honor the history of the horse racetrack that once existed on the Harford Mall site. The sculpture is a singular piece which depicts five horses, and it is 16" deep x 120" wide 48" high. The sculpture is fabricated from 3/16" steel with a connecting base, finished in a bronze color. It is finished by using a two-part marine-grade epoxy paint that is extremely durable and will withstand the various weather conditions it may face residing outdoors. Installation will occur in late summer or early fall 2022.

Ms. Robertson distributed a packet with the application and a depiction of the sculpture.

Ms. Robertson reported that the sculpture will be installed using Sonotube® forms to create the concrete footer. Sonotube® is a trademark name of a brand of large, reinforced cardboard tubes designed for placement in a pre-dug hole that is filled with concrete. Ms. Robertson advised that the packet includes a photo of the sculpture being installed in a different location. She shared a Site Plan showing where the sculpture will be installed on the Tollgate Road side of the Shops at Harford Mall.

Ms. Lucas inquired how close the sculpture will be to parked vehicles on the site. Ms. Robertson advised that the developer resubmitted their Landscape Plan to the Planning Department, and two (2) trees have been added to flank the sculpture and they have added bushes behind it.

Ms. Lucas suggested that the sculpture be elevated. Ms. Grubb advised that she feels it should be elevated more as well.

Ms. Lucas moved and Ms. Weeks seconded the motion to approve the installation of the horse sculpture submitted by SJC Ventures with a total cost of \$4,799.00 (plus tax and installation) and the remaining amount of the required \$10,000.00 to be contributed by SJC Ventures to the Public Art Amenity Fund. Installation is to occur in late summer / early fall 2022.

The motion carried.

Ms. Robertson advised that she will inquire to SJC Ventures about lighting and the height of the Sonotube® forms.

#### Event for Harford County Arts Week

Ms. Robertson reported that she has been working with a committee with members from around the County to create the first **Harford County Arts Week** from September 11-18, 2022, which coincides with several arts events already scheduled for that week.

Ms. Robertson advised that this is the perfect opportunity for CAC to host an event that week. She advised of the following events scheduled:

**Sunday, September 11:** proposed concert in Havre de Grace and the Belle Aire Market

**Monday, September 12:** Deer Creek Youth Chorale at the Liriodenron

**Tuesday, September 13:** swing dance lessons at the Armory, possible dance event in Edgewood and Plein Air painting at Ladew Topiary Gardens

**Wednesday, September 14:** workshop at Harford Artists

**Thursday, September 15:** Nocturne event of the Plein Air Festival in Havre de Grace

**Friday, September 16:** Plein Air Festival Collectors Preview Party at the Armory

**Saturday, September 17:** Plein Air Festival Quick Draw in Bel Air, live music at the Farmers' Market, Plein Air Festival exhibit at the Armory and Harford Artists opening reception with live music

**Sunday, September 18:** Festival for the Arts

Ms. Robertson reported that Visit Harford is a sponsor for the event and has created a page on their website serving as a repository for all the events during Harford County Arts Week.

Ms. Robertson advised that it had been initially suggested that CAC host a concert in Armory Park on September 16 before the Plein Air Festival Collectors Preview Party. She advised that the Armory is available for September 15 for a CAC standalone event. Ms. Robertson advised that CAC previously discussed hosting a children's chalk art event. She advised that neither a literary event nor a film have been scheduled. Ms. Robertson advised that she reached out to Nothing to Plunder to inquire about their availability, the band that performed at Take a Chance on Art, but she has not received a reply.

Ms. Foss suggested that CAC sponsor musicians to play outdoors along with the various events occurring in Bel Air during Arts Week.

The members present agreed to contact storyteller Colleen Webster to inquire if she is available for an event on September 16 at Armory Park and to inquire what she would include in her presentation. Ms. Robertson advised that she could look into scheduling a musician to be placed at the entrance to Armory Park as an introduction and to coordinate with the storytelling event.

Ms. Fielder advised that Irish musicians used to perform every third Thursday at the Union Hotel in Port Deposit, and they were incredible.

Ms. Weeks suggested that Nothing to Plunder be contacted about performing in the bandshell at the park if Colleen Webster is unavailable.

Ms. Robertson advised that she will contact Colleen Webster and inquire to Maryland Center for the Arts about the time for the Collectors Preview Party.

Ms. Robertson reported that the Harford County Arts Week committee will meet with Visit Harford on June 7 to discuss marketing plans for the week.

**OTHER:**

A&E District Update

Ms. Robertson reported that a busy season is set to begin with the Summer Concert Series, First Fridays and the Belle Aire Market.

Ms. Robertson reported that the Maryland State Arts Council is sending a photographer in June to photograph the Bel Air A&E District.

Ms. Robertson reported that she is awaiting to hear back regarding the A&E District grant.

Ms. Robertson reported that the A&E District Advisory Board will meet in July to develop a task list for FY23. She advised that the CAC members should let her know if they recommend any tasks to be added to meet the Strategic Plan goals.

Other

Ms. Weeks advised that she will be contacting Jenny Falcone of the Bel Air Downtown Alliance to inquire if the Belle Aire Market would like to partner with the Farmers' Market for the winter market in December.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.