

Town of Washington

Arts Council

Minutes

July 13, 2023- 7:00 pm

Bryan Town Hall main conference room and zoom

Members Present:

Abdo Ballester, Fran Keilty, Victoria Rowan, Simon Holt, Kent Burnham, Sarah Clemente

Visitors:

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to order** 7:02
2. **Vote to approve Minutes** of June 8, 2023. Simone moved approval, Fran seconded, all voted in favor.
3. **Updates**
 - a. Sharing of events and feedback- discussed conflicts of large events and the ability to avoid. We will do the best we can to encourage all the organizations to plan early and post their save the dates to avoid conflicts as much as possible. Shared the WAA 1st and 3rd Friday coffee events 10-12. Hollister house First Fridays really nice. Farmer's Table coming up Aug. 5th. Common Ground Aug. 6th at FGS. WAA Summer Solstice July 22. The council lamented the increase in costs for things required for holding events. Hickory Stick Book Signing with Alan Shayne, "The Star Dressing Room- portrait of an Actor" Sept 2nd and WAA opening of the Norman Sunshine Center Sept 3rd 2-4. Space will be used to hold lectures, display art etc. The idea that the small non-profits all need admin, graphic design and social media help. WAA is hiring a PT person and maybe other organizations need help as well. CT Theater Exchange at FGS workshopped several plays as well as stage fight master training. Brings writers and actors together in residence to workshop projects.
 - b. The council discussed getting an email list together so events can be shared. We could start collecting emails at our Saturday sandwich board. The request could also go in the monthly boards and commissions email. Michelle will talk with Mandy about the Mail Chimp account.
4. **New Business**
 - a. Logo contest- There were four entrants. The Council will vote by emailing Mandy and she will compile the results of the voting and the comments. The logo is to be used for printed material as well as promotional swag. There was discussion of the name to be used and it was felt Washington Arts Council was best.

5. Old Business

- a. Update on and review of Cultural District work. Met with Steph Burr of NW Arts Council on June 29. She made it clear that our application should represent how we want to present ourselves to our community. The District must be walkable but we can list other cultural assets nearby. The committee will come and walk the district so including the Green is a challenge. We will try and see what the State says. We need to get an official letter to the NW Arts Council. Must have a Public hearing to present the concept. Then a resolution for the town to approve. Will need to go to the BOS first. The hearing can be part of an Arts Council meeting.
- b. Name for EDC Photo Exhibit. Discussed having seasons poetry reading at the opening of the show. Davyne Verstandig is our previous poet laureate and Karen Silk is our current poet laureate. Chose to stay with "Washington through the Seasons" for the show promotion.
- c. Manning "What's Happening" Sandwich board on Saturdays. Victoria has been manning the board and it works better if there are two people. Abdo is going to try to get someone else from WAA. 10:00-12:00 is the sweet spot.
- d. Abdo suggested having an Art Event like a scavenger hunt around town. Sarah suggested the marketing not focus on the purchase of art but more of the scavenger hunt.

6. Public Comment

7. Adjournment 8:24

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Gorra.

Meeting recording

<https://youtu.be/V8FxroADJPU>