

AMAC Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2021, 5:30-7:00 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance: Kelee Riesbeck, Steve Patterson, Andrew Chiki, Scott Winland, Beth Braun, Kelly Lawrence, Carol Patterson, Chelsa Morahan, Josh Birnbaum

- I. Call to Order and legislative updates: Andrew Chiki
 - a. Updated Terms of Service
Last April, terms of service for city commissioners were updated. Commissioners used to be limited to 3 two-year terms. Now it is 2 three-year terms. Also, if a commissioner leaves for a year, they can then come back and do another six-year stint.
 - b. Traffic Box Wraps are still in progress
- II. Minutes from April 14, 2021 for approval: Josh Birnbaum
 - a. MOTION TO ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES: PASSED
- III. Arts West / Arts of APRD Update
 - a. No update from the Arts West committee.
 - b. There was an SUV that drove into ARTS/West at about 50-m.p.h. (on a 25-m.p.h. road). The vehicle that struck the building did quite a bit of structural damage, about \$150,000 in damages. The city is moving very quickly to get repairs done. They had an insurance adjustor and structural engineer inspect and assess, and they consulted architectural restoration company. City council has approved money so repairs can start as soon as possible, and the city will later be reimbursed by insurance.
 - c. Community Artmaking event: Chelsa made a pendant for AMAC and it's displayed at the Armory Park.
- IV. Ongoing Public Projects:
 - a. Community Center Mural: Beth Braun
Each of the school districts are nearly finished with their sections of the mural (4'x8' each). Students had a tremendous time participating in this project. Aluminum panels should arrive this week, and then city workers will be able to prepare the panels (sanding for adhesion) for the sections. Then Beth and teachers will be adhering the mural cloth to the panels, and city crew will get the wall ready and mount them.

- b. Key to the City: Kelly Lawrence
Andrew got Kelly a copy of the key. Kelly met with the artist, Brian Alloway, former art professor at Hocking College. He will make a silicone mold and then will pour metal in the mold. Will start with Zinc as it's a low temperature, and then will age it so it will look like the original. He can also make a large copy if the mayor would like it to hang in the courthouse. He can also make a box or plaque to present it, but it will depend on what mayor wants. Perhaps they will make 12-15 to start with. Kelly will get an idea of cost from the artist so that the city can allocate money.
- c. Art Outside the Box: Chelsa
The city has paid the artists the honorarium and budgeted for 2021 the installation of the next round of wraps, but work has not begun. Andrew will investigate with Performance Signs and they will get the installation moving. Also, there is graffiti on the traffic box wrap installed near the middle school (image of trees in the fog), so we need to figure out how to deal with that. Andrew will check with the code office. Chelsa would like to start timeline for the next round of traffic box wraps. We will want to make sure the language in the RFP is clearer about "submissions by organizations" since some organizations thought they were eligible in the last round. We want to make it clearer that it's only open to individuals. Kelly will forward Chelsa a copy of the RFP.

V. Ongoing Commission Business:

- a. Mural Walk, the mAppAthens project: Josh Birnbaum
Josh divided the list of murals in Athens County into neighborhoods. He found that not many were on the southside of Athens, and that overall it is city-centric. We could spend more time developing that county component.

Should we follow the names from the comprehensive plan, or use the traditional neighborhood name (Eastside, Westside)? The names are not widely known yet and we should use both. Also, we need to include North Hill with Westside neighborhood. A few murals were added and clarified on the list.

Should we narrow down the list? Perhaps 5-10 per neighborhood? Or do we want to leave it large? It is amazing that this many murals exist, and it makes quite an impression with a large list of murals. Is there a way to make a main city of Athens main tour, and then the residential neighborhood tour, and then a countywide tour? How do we want to organize this, and divide this into different walks that people will be interested in? We want it to make sense geographically and logically. We could have a tab for each neighborhood.

It would be great to see a map with dots marked out to see best walking route for some of these murals. Are there primary murals that we want to highlight,

like city-sponsored or large ones? Can we have those stand out, perhaps by dot size? Can we show the actual path? Josh will ask Nancy can come to the meeting to talk to us about possibilities.

There are a few murals we may not want to include, if it is deeper into a private property, or if it is unauthorized or illegal (like some of the Real Detective work). We should check on some of the work to make sure it was done with permission, like the Turtle mural above the Athena.

Josh will setup a Google Document so we can fill in contextual information about each mural so we can share information about each mural.

- b. Ohio Arts Council Governor's Arts Awards: Carol Patterson & Josh Birnbaum
Josh and Carol reviewed AMAC's past Governor's Arts Award application, watched a webinar, and discussed how our application could be improved to apply again. It is due in September and we will be applying to the Community Development and Participation category, which is an individual or organization that works to create or strengthen interactive arts participation among diverse community members while increasing public awareness about the role of the arts in community life.

Josh and Carol suggest revising the narrative to weave together the picture of AMAC's role in the community. It needs more impact and should show diversity focus and feature community partnerships. For example, we could talk about the Athens Community Arts and Music Festival organized by Scott and Kelly, and the Comm"unity" mural where Beth is working with all schools in the county. The narrative should show how AMAC is a part of the process of making arts and arts opportunities in the community. Where to start, for example, if you want to make a mural? Go to AMAC. Kelee has volunteered to revise the narrative and will work with Josh to get all the relevant info.

Letters of support also need to be updated. We submitted four previously but could submit up to five. They should be from diverse individuals that are affected by our work and represent all aspects of the work we do. The letters should have voice and style. We could get letters from Wendy McVicker (current poet laureate), an Art Outside the Box artist, Jolena Hansbarger, someone from the Arts Park and Recreation department, or City administration.

We would like to get a letter from one of the art teachers Beth is working with and perhaps all teachers could sign off on it to show the level of impact (Beth will ask them). We will also solicit one from Keith Wilde, a local artist who has worked with AMAC and other organizations and individuals extensively. And we will ask other letter writers to update their letters from last application. Josh will take care of this. Generally, we want letters to talk about the impact that AMAC

has had on this arts community. We want them to be richer than a list: more a description of AMAC's role and what it brings to life here.

- c. Review Ordinance 0.46.02 (Code Number 3.07.50)
We will skip this item for today due to lack of time. Commissioners, please look at document that Chelsa provided earlier and be prepared to discuss.
- d. AMAC Member to attend APRD Advisory Board Meetings
The director of APRD and chair of APRD Advisory Board request that we send an AMAC representative to their meetings quarterly, same person (not different). AMAC members feel that quarterly is sufficient, and we are going to have the same person at least for the year. To be further discussed.

VI. Commission Action Items:

- a. New Member Handbook Items
AMAC needs to come up with some sort of handbook, so that the next group of commissioners can hit the ground running and take what we've done and improve. Beth will provide past version. Kelee is new and can provide insight as to what questions she has, what is unfamiliar and could use explanation. Can the document be both a training document and archive of all AMAC projects? It serves as both manual of annual tasks and guide for the overarching picture of what AMAC commissioners can do.

VII. Announcements and other business:

- a. Farewell to long-time member and chair Carol Patterson! Best of luck on your journey.

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Next Meeting: June 9, 2021, 5:30-7:00 p.m. via ZOOM