

AMAC Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2021, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor City Hall
8 East Washington Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

In attendance: Scott Winland, Holly Ittel, Chelsa Morahan, Kelly Lawrence, Beth Braun, Josh Birnbaum

- I. Call to Order and legislative updates: Andrew Chiki & Jeff Risner

N/A

- II. Minutes from July 14, 2021 for approval: Josh Birnbaum

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES: **PASSED**

- III. Arts West / Arts of APRD Update

-The Arts West Gallery is hosting Hannah Sickles, Maria Freed, and Terry Fortkamp's gallery show now through August 27th.

-Local photographer Matthew Shaw will display his series "Portraits on Porches" at the Community Center through August 28th.

-Rehearsals for Ohio Valley Summer Theater's production of Clue will begin on August 18th. Show dates will begin October 8th.

-The PRISM LGBTQ program will be hosting bi-weekly game days Wednesdays at Arts West through August 18th. PRISM art based after school programming will begin meeting regularly on Mondays starting Monday, August 30th.

-After School Arts Classes for grades K-5 and 6-8th will begin Monday August 30th at Arts West.

-The *Handmade Housewarming* event, hosted by Arts West, Passion Works, and UpCycle Ohio, will occur at Armory Park on Saturday, August 21st from 10am-6pm. The event is planned as a welcome event for incoming Ohio University students, and will feature a Passion Works Puppet Sale, a community art making activity, and local art vendors.

- IV. Ongoing Public Projects:

- a. Community Center Mural: Beth Braun

Mural cloth is adhered to the panels, and city maintenance and facilities staff are working to get it hung. They hope it will be up soon (end of the month possibly). The wall still must be cleaned. There are complications with how it will mount but they would like to get it up as school starts! What kind of reception should AMAC host? Would teachers and students come as well? Can it be promoted on social media?

b. Key to the City: Kelly Lawrence

About 50 of the metal versions of the replica key to the city have been created from an alloy that Brian Alloway made. The keys have been delivered to the city.

c. Art Outside the Box: Holly Ittel & Kelly Lawrence

Four of the images from the 2020 RFP did not get reproduced and they were missing. Kelly contacted the artists and located the art and got the files to the sign company.

For the next RFP, if people are interested in incorporating local history, perhaps we can write words about consulting the Southeast Ohio History Center, so there is some vetting? There also could be a juror who is associated with the Center.

There should be language included about how the image will be wrapped around a traffic box, so the artists should think about their image as a 3-dimensional wrap. Applicants can be encouraged to check out wraps that have been installed around the city. There are no standard dimensions for the boxes, and location is determined by the city.

If there is historical information or text to go along with the work, it should be included with the original submission. We should have everyone include an artist statement, so this info can go along with the database of works in the mAppAthens project.

d. Athens Photo Project Youth Exhibit: Josh Birnbaum

Youth photographs from APP's summer classes will be displayed mid-September through October on the Athens parking garage wall installation space as an interim exhibit. Following this, APP adult artists will have portfolios installed!

V. Ongoing Commission Business:

a. Mural Walk, the mAppAthens project: Josh Birnbaum

Josh has created a spreadsheet of data that we need to gather to create a mural walk with the mAppAthens project which includes the title of piece, artist, date, and corresponding info. How to tag team this endeavor of gathering information? We should add a column: AMAC member assigned, so people can investigate specific works and we can make progress.

- b. Ohio Arts Council Governor's Arts Awards 2022: Josh Birnbaum & Kelee Riesbeck (30 minutes)

Kelee has done a great job drafting the narrative. She still has to get a quote from Scott. He thinks he started the Athens Community Music Festival in 1999.

Feedback includes: any time "City of Athens" is written out, we can condense to "Athens." Repetition of "In 2002" in first paragraph, and "Established in 2002" can be reduced or combined. Technically we are a 9-member body (with city council representative and city representative).

Do we need all of ARTS/West's mission statement? It could be cut down. The second paragraph about Kari could be much tighter. Could be: "Kari was appointed to this position...prior to becoming the Ohio poet Laureate." Kari talks about this in her letter.

Do we want to be more specific with what AMAC did with each project? For example, with the Poet Laureate, we conceived of it, we made it happen, and this is what it does for the community. What is/was AMAC's role?

The Athens Community Arts and Music Festival paragraph doesn't talk about having tons of artists from the community, like the Athens Art Guild. It also doesn't showcase the diversity of the music lineup. Once Scott became an AMAC member, he added arts onto the festival. It should also be mentioned that the festival supports local youth arts education.

Some commissioners feel there should be a short conclusion, and perhaps we should cut the Art Outside the Box paragraph. It could be mentioned elsewhere briefly. We should mention that we are in Appalachian Ohio in the conclusion perhaps. The APP paragraph could be cut down significantly.

Beth and Josh will take a look and work on it together and Josh will submit by the deadline.

- c. AMAC social media: Chelsa Morahan

Scott (from the city government channel) recommends that we use the city's established social media account. Do we want to post content more regularly?

We could post art that goes up from our RFPs and consulted projects. This gets us in the public eye as well. Does the city have an Instagram presence? Art is mostly visual / performance / audio / text, and Instagram might be a better venue.

Perhaps AMAC can involve arts administration students from OU, or they could be interns. Beth will reach out to them.

d. Parklet: Chelsa Morahan

Commissioners continued the conversation about AMAC having a parklet. Continue thinking about whether we can start a busking space and have a reception for the 20th anniversary of AMAC. People would have to bring their own equipment or powered instruments, so we don't have to deal with power complications.

Scott investigated how to do pop-up shows. The city will be putting in more outlets in the Armory Park for more stuff like that. Scott was seeking experiences for his students during the pandemic so shows could be held outside and would be another way to present arts in town. This could tie into things that AMAC promotes. We could utilize an area that incorporates the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).

VI. Commission Action Items:

a. New Member Handbook Items

N/A

VII. Announcements and other business

The city has received requests to broadcast commission meetings even though we are back to meeting in-person. Should we be meeting at ARTS/West? This would help us establish the connection to Arts/West! Arts, Park and Recreation meets and the Rec Center. The city would like to stream our meetings. Chelsa will investigate options

VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: September 8, 2021, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers