

## AMAC Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2019, 5:30-7p.m. at ARTS/West

*In Attendance:* Carol Patterson, Beth Braun, Josh Birnbaum, Ann Judy, Kelly Lawrence, Chelsa Morahan, Emily Beveridge, Steve Patterson

### I. Call to order and legislative updates: Steve Patterson and Carol Patterson

AMAC voted to send ahead the new mural for ARTS/West patio. City Council said they did not have to vote because no money was involved, so they left it up to the Mayor. He is moving it forward and artist Jolena Hansbarger will begin this month, with planned finish in September.

### II. Minutes from July 10, 2019 AMAC meeting

We don't have minutes currently but we do have audio/video recordings of the meeting. Emily will get them to Josh who will transcribe them if possible. Carol has some notes that can contribute to the minutes.

### III. Continuing Projects

#### A. Music and Arts Festival - Aug 17, plan to attend. Scott and Kelly

Everything is ready for the festival. Ads running this week on radio. Kelly has been in touch with Ron about closing Union Street early, possibly Friday night, so we don't have cars there blocking the setup. We can bag the parking meters to let people know not to park.

Schedule is set. AMAC can help in the following ways: by helping with the booth, setup and late night tear down, and driving Kelly's van that will be the shuttle (vendors park in middle school parking lot). Kelly will be there at 7am, Stage and porta-johns come in at 8, nonprofits 8-9, vendors 9-10. Kelly will send AMAC members a copy of the map so we know what to expect.

Can we make a banner with AMAC's mission statement and images that showcase our projects? Josh will design this and get to Minuteman for printing. We will be sharing a tent with ARTS/West most likely. We will have Essence of Athens book and contractor pamphlet from the Code office.

Each non-profit should have activities. Are there any Athens, Ohio themed coloring pages? What about painted rocks that advertise AMAC on the bottom when found around the city? Great idea for next year.

City of Athens and AMAC has verified insurance certificates from Matthews Insurance.

#### B. Art Outside the Box - Carol and Kelly

Carol will get the past RFP document in another format to send to Kelly (from Google Docs). We have an Illustrator file and PDF. We need to figure out the dates!

#### C. Poet Laureate RFP - Carol

Carol would like to ask the same people who were on the committee the first time to repeat. AMAC can find additional members if necessary. Carol will meet with them to go over RFP and compare it to the Ohio state RFP, which is an excellent model. Most of their language would serve us well. Then AMAC would bring that proposal forward with dates.

**MOTION TO INVITE PRIOR COMMITTEE TO SERVE AGAIN ON POET LAUREATE COMMITTEE AND IF THEY ARE INTERESTED ACCEPT - PASSED**

Can we make a 2-year assignment for the Poet Laureate? It is possible to budget this and would make things easier.

The contract starts on Feb. 24, which is an awkward date. Can we try to make it start on the first of the year? It was confusing for the poet laureate. Or March 1? We could have a month of overlap so that there's an initiation / transition phase. Current laureate Kari would like an initial event planned to set off the new poet laureate on the right foot. Kari has applied for the Ohio state level poet laureate position! Kari wants information as to what to do for sales of the book she's putting together. She might attend next month's meeting.

#### IV. Ongoing topics

##### A. Percent for Arts Ordinance

Does AMAC want to suggest different language, language that is stronger and potentially enforces getting more money for the arts? Beth will send around current language to AMAC members to solicit feedback. It is not a codified ordinance, but it is an ordinance establishing a policy. Policies can change, ordinance is law. This policy kicks in at \$1 million. The city is exempt from the policy, but contributes money when it can. It was intended for private contractors to include public art as parts of their project. If you do not, you can donate said 1% to the art fund.

Does it need to be a full percent? Other cities don't do a full percent. It could be more palatable and more feasible and practical. We could lower it to make it more acceptable to contractors. It is meant to encourage big projects in our city to have public art. Whose responsibility is it to enforce this? The code office. It would certainly be a part of the planning commission as well.

On the other hand, we want to encourage businesses to come to Athens to diversify our economy. We don't want more roadblocks. We want to make sure our economy is strong. It would be nice if there is flexibility with that percent and if they were encouraged to work with AMAC on what to do (public art, buy art from local artists, donate to art funds, etc.).

What is the language in other cities' percent for art laws? Emily's document of the top 100 art cities designates which cities have their percent for art laws online to see. We will explore options and discuss at a future meeting.

## B. Governor's Art Award

Does AMAC want to apply again? Nominations are now open. What would it take to get an application put back together? It is due September 23rd. We want it to be different but can modify based on accomplishments: armory project, murals, poet laureate's additional work and AMAC annual report.

Last year's letters were from:  
Emily Beveridge, ARTS/West  
Emily Prince, Stuart's Opera House  
Nate Thomson, Athens Photo Project  
Kari Gunter-Seymour, Poet Laureate

Others to consider for this year:  
Joel Prince or Paige Alost, ACCVB  
Matthew Shaftel, OU College of Fine Arts  
Nadzeya Ilkevich, who worked on the Armory project?  
Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens

Should AMAC encourage other entities in Athens to apply so we get more representation from southeast Ohio and rural areas? It could be less about us and more about the region as a whole.

## V. Announcements and other business

Quilt Fest and Fiber Fair is coming up Labor Day weekend at the Dairy Barn: 10-6 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday. Will have 28 vendors from all over Ohio. Will have activities and classes, a raffle, and its the last weekend to see Quilt National. Free to get in the festival, classes are pre-register with material costs. Will have a talk and reception too!

More updates on the Athens Art Hub website soon! Josh is meeting with Roman and Maria Warmke about options.

## VI. Adjournment

Next Meeting, September 11, 5:30-7:00 at ARTS/West