

AMAC Meeting Minutes, January 10, 2018 @ 5:30-7:00, ARTS/West

In attendance: Leisha Price (Andrew Chiki's intern), Emily Beveridge, Scott Winland, Carol Patterson, Chelsa Morahan, Kelly Lawrence, Josh Birnbaum, Steve Patterson

I. Call to order and legislative updates - Steve Patterson

Ann Judy was appointed to be a member of AMAC. Scott Winland needs to be reappointed in the coming week.

The city will possibly be looking for a D5H liquor permit. A 501(c)(3) would manage the permit. Hasn't gone to City Council yet. There are multiple mechanisms for having a true 1% for the Arts coming through this D5H liquor permit. This could be a more consistent financial stream to support the arts. The mayor is looking at language for the charter (examples up in Cleveland). Moving fast to get this done, hopefully in 2018.

II. Minutes from December meeting.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES - PASSED

III. Updates

A. Summer Activity

Scott and Kelly met this past Sunday. They want to have an arts festival on the short portion of Union Street (where the Union and Jackie O's). Scott has approached businesses there and they love the idea. Scott met with Dave Eubanks to get an estimate for stage and sound: it was looking around \$2500. Scott will look for other deals. The band could be around \$1500. Scott will be working on fundraising and seeing what funds city can supplement. Paige Alost at the ACCVB offered to help as well. AMAC could apply for a grant (Arts Start Grant with Ohio Arts Council). Kelly met with the Athens Art Guild to help plan art vendors. They think one day is great, all day long, to see if we can align with Concert Under the Elms. Booth fees (it's an untried event...as low as possible...perhaps \$25-30) will help with cost. The spaces would be 10x10. Logistics will need to be worked out: how they unload their goods and park? Perhaps a shuttle system, or load in before it starts and load out afterwards? Placement will be key. Thinking about the 18th of August. This will give business owners the chance to live the moniker of Union Street "Arts Corridor" name.

Mayor Patterson advises AMAC to reach out to every single business owner with what's happening and the closure times. AMAC will need to be sure to be clear with communication to the public about what's happening, what to expect, costs, etc. This will give AMAC the chance to merge performance and visual art in the community.

A chalk art project could be cool and collaborative. The Yellow Springs street festival should be researched since it is successful and Yellow Springs is very similar to Athens.

Will need to think about layout of booths and a few Athenians have connections to Yellow Springs. More to come.

B. Poet Laureate RFP due Jan 19.

The RFP has been out for a while and is due on the 19th. At this point we have no applicants, but we know of one. After deadline the committee meets, goes through applications, invites the top applicants in for interviews and presentations. The committee will make their selection, brings it to AMAC, then to City Council.

IV. Planning session

AMAC members discussed our direction for the future. This is in collaboration with the updating of the city Comprehensive Plan and ESSENCE OF ATHENS. Josh brought some public arts books for inspiration. Everyone brought thoughts and dreams. From this sharing, Carol would like to then put our ideas into a document and put them up for public comment.

IDEAS:

Mayor Patterson still feels that the alleys are “low-hanging fruit.” They are heavily utilized and have tons of space. Mayor will get AMAC a map of which alleys belong to the city and which are privately owned.

Also, the City has been successful at getting ODOT grants and will be applying for 2022 to do something similar to the West Union St. renovation on Washington St. from Congress to College, and State St. from Congress to College, and a part of Carpenter. This might lead to more public art opportunities in these areas.

Take a piano, paint it, and put it on the street. (This was attempted and people said that it would disrupt their ability to do their work). Is there a way to incorporate sound or music into art or experience? Emily Beveridge has a piano that could be part of that project (the old O’Houleys piano!). Mayor Patterson will continue looking for an appropriate location/host and to work out logistics. What about a xylophone on Court Street? Could be cool too. Passionworks would be more than happy to paint it and collaborate with other artists. Need to think about portability of piano (durable, large casters underneath). The corner by the BP gas station is widely trafficked and we could ask Passionworks if they would be willing to store it. Jackie O’s might be interested.

We have been approached for murals in alleyways. AMAC can take a more active role in getting people excited about arts and specific projects.

Utilizing the sides of taller buildings, facades that rise above other buildings.

Take pictures of people and make B&W large printouts and affix them to buildings. What if

you walked down the alleyways to have experiences with large scale art? The alleyways have surprise, we could elevate these forgotten spaces.

A lot of ideas have been mural-based. What else can we do? Hanging artwork from lines. Outdoor sculptures? Interaction? Contribution? Like Bagel Street deli foil in the wall! Something that integrates with the space? Recycled materials? Sails in the trees with bright, heavy fabric attached to limbs. Memory locks?

Hilferty thought of vertical banners with color and text, they would protrude away from the city parking garage to dress up a banal space. A roll off dumpster converted into a sitting area and edible garden. It's a communal thing.

Kroger apparently has a program where they install and pay for murals. Chelsa will sit down with the new manager of Kroger and see if it can happen. We can possibly bring the new manager to AMAC.

Brick inserts in the sidewalk or street with pattern or imagery or cast designs. If any areas torn up, we can implement then. Colored concrete in patterns? Around the Rotary Centennial Fountain when renovated?

Pool: the city administration feels that the bath house is itself artistic, how it flows, the design. Mayor Patterson started a capital campaign with business owners in the city to see if they want to bring back artistic items into the budget. Looking at putting Athens block in the walkway into poolhouse. Splashpad will have applique.

Commissioners charged with developing an idea to put into more detailed form to get public feedback. This is a chance for AMAC to take initiative. Pick a space, place-making, run with it. A public forum will be happening with the comprehensive plan meetings.

V. Announcements and other business

Letter from Art Bench folks: Thank you for your support! They appreciate the city funding appropriation and project development support.

VI. Adjournment

Next Meeting February 14, 2018, 5:30-7:00