

GLOUCESTER COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS

**Minutes of Meeting Held on 15 August 2018
Gloucester City Hall, First Floor Conference Room**

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
2019 APR 29 AM 9:16

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judith Hoglander, Chair
Robert Haverkamp, Secretary
Sinikka Nogelo, Treasurer

Rebecca Reynolds
Catherine Ryan

GUESTS:

David Demeter
Councilor Ken Hecht

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Judith at 5:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 18 JULY 2018 MEETING

A motion by Rebecca, seconded by Robert, to approve the minutes of the 18 July 2018 meeting passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sinikka noted that there have been no changes since the most recent report from June 2018.

A motion by Robert, seconded by Rebecca, to change the order of the agenda to take the new business item first passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Downtown Outdoor Murals

Judith introduced guests Dave Demeter and Councilor Ken Hecht, each of whom separately had asked to be present to talk about possible downtown mural projects. Judith noted that the Committee has no jurisdiction over art on private property but certainly wants to offer assistance and encouragement to these types of projects and appreciates both gentlemen reaching out to the Committee.

Ken Hecht has a building at 189-191 Main Street, where he would like to explore the possibility of a large wall mural. More generally, he stated that he wants to start a conversation about a vision for downtown Gloucester and is meeting with all interests involved in the downtown area. He said that art – public and private – is an important component of that vision. There followed a discussion of what is happening in other nearby cities, especially Salem and Lynn. Sinikka

offered the example of Vienna, Austria. Steeped in history, Vienna has lots of graffiti art (similar to that of Banksy) adorning the walls of its canals. She mentioned this as an example of creativity, saying that while there may be constraints on the execution of the art, the spirit of art and what is possible should not be constrained. Judith asked about the involvement of the Downtown Development Committee. Ken said he is aware of that group and will continue to be in contact with them.

Dave Demeter has properties at 44 and 161 Main Street. The 161 address has two murals done by approval of the previous owner. He would like to explore some other mural(s) there. He has talked with both groups of artists and said they have no particular attachment to the existing murals. Dave would like to have something there that all of Gloucester would appreciate. He had asked to talk with the Committee because he really was not sure where or how to begin.

Judith said the Committee would be pleased to give support and advice as appropriate even with private projects and the more specific the project is, the better able the Committee would be to respond. It was suggested that one place to start with respect to murals on private property is for the property owners to coordinate compilation of an inventory of suitable locations in the downtown area. Ken asked what plans the Committee has with respect to public art downtown, including murals and sculpture. Judith responded that the Committee has not had the time or resources to develop any plan; rather the Committee has committed its meager funds to preserving existing City art. Committee members reiterated that the Committee wants to be supportive of private efforts and would like to be involved as their projects move forward. Both Dave and Ken said they would keep the Committee apprised of their efforts.

[Ken and Dave and, separately, Catherine left the meeting at approximately 5:50 pm.]

OLD BUSINESS

City Hall Art Repairs – Marine Painting Plaque

Judith distributed material received from the daughter of one of the deceased Marines. She asked that Committee members read the material for discussion at the next meeting.

Mural Restoration Report

This item was postponed until the next meeting due to Catherine's absence.

Civil War Era Coat

This item was postponed until the next meeting due to Catherine's absence.

Poet Laureate

Robert distributed copies of the draft letter to the two applicants. There was consensus that the letter is acceptable. Judith said she will forward it to the Mayor for action.

David Black Sculpture

Committee members present said they each had visited the proposed site at Stage Fort Park. There was a unanimous consensus that while the site appears to be a good location for the sculpture, the Committee cannot make a formal recommendation until the Committee receives a

As approved at the meeting on 11 Oct 18

site plan of the area, including the proposed location for the sculpture. A motion to that effect by Sinikka, seconded by Rebecca, was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Sinikka, seconded by Rebecca, to adjourn was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Haverkamp, Secretary