

**Gloucester Committee for the Arts
Minutes of Meeting Held on 9 September, 2022
Harbor Master Office & Zoom**

Members Present

- Karen Ristuben
- Judith Hoglander
- Rebecca Reynolds
- Philip Storey (on Zoom)
- Miranda Aisling
- Mayor Greg Verga (on Zoom)

Members Absent

- Rebecca Nagle

Guests

- Brian King
- Susanna Natti
- David Calvo
- David Fields, Community Development Coordinator

Call to Order at 3:10 pm

Introductions & Appointments

All members introduced themselves and shared information about their relevant history. Karen Ristuben was voted on as Chair of the Committee for the Arts with 6 yeas. Miranda Aisling agreed to be Secretary.

Review of the Past Charge for the Committee

Judith Hoglander shared the charge for the Committee of the Arts as it stands from the last meetings in 2019 including the review of any public art and the coordinated of the poet laureate. Rebecca Reynolds and Judith shared information about the Public Art Ordinance that was previously drafted but never voted in. A subcommittee was created to review the previous ordinance: Karen, Philip, Miranda, and Judith. Mayor Verga suggested that any reviews be made and sent to Suzanne Egan, the city attorney. The subcommittee will create a meeting for October.

Past Funding

David Calvo asked about past funding for the committee. Judith shared that the committee has received an NEA for mural work, a Bruce J. Anderson grant, but did not receive funding from the Adams grant. Members discussed the lack of funding for the committee, which currently has no budget. In the past, the budget was minimal and has since been redistributed tourism.

New Staff Position

The mayor shared that there is a \$25,000 line item in the budget to fund a part-time staff position dedicated to the arts and that they're hoping to expand. The position would report to David Fields in Community Development. Karen noted that the new hire will be the staff liaison with this committee. She has descriptions of similar jobs and their salaries from other local governments. Karen will work with David Fields on the job description. When it is ready, there will be a subcommittee specifically for hiring the position. Karen suggested that the search subcommittee should be included in the committee ordinance.

Additions to the Committee Ordinance

Karen asked for other suggestions to add to the committee ordinance. Judith mentioned that the committee has historically kept an office at city hall. Other areas include programming, community outreach, artist-in-residence possibilities, sustainable infrastructure for the arts.

Future Funding

The committee discussed ways to increase funding for the committee for the arts. Mayor Verga shared the timeline for the annual city budget, the process will be in the spring of 2023. Karen has examples of budgets from other cities and suggested that having a part-time staff member would be a big help in applying for grants based on experience in other cities where staff brought in major grants.

Public Art Policy

Judith and Rebecca shared some of the history of past attempts to create a public art policy. It was voted down because of a built in budget stream that included a 2% for the arts. There was discussion of other reasons why the public art policy was not approved in its last attempt and how to change that moving forward.

Current Projects

Tablet Rock: Rebecca shared a proposal to fix tablet rock especially with the Gloucester 400+ Anniversary approaching. Both the granite itself and the bronze plaque need to be looked at. The committee discussed potential local restoration options which Rebecca will follow up on. David Fields shared funding streams and how those work. Anything over \$10,000 has to go through a quilting process and over \$15,000 has to go out for RFP.

Portrait: Judith shared that a portrait of Frank Davis (1859-19200), a former Mayor of Gloucester needs to be restored. There was discussion about how this came to the city, whether it has been properly donated or accepted, and how much it would cost to restore. This discussion led to the need to have a formal inventory of artwork owned by the City of Gloucester and its condition.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 from 9:00 - 10:30 am at the Harbormaster Office. Standing meeting time established for second Tuesdays at 9:00 am.

- Secretary, Miranda Aisling