

**Gloucester Committee for the Arts
Minutes of Meeting Held on 11 October 2022
Harbor Master Office**

In Attendance:

Karen Ristuben, Chair
Rebecca Nagle
Philip Storey
Judith Hoglander
Miranda Aisling
Rebecca Reynolds
David Fields, Community Development Coordinator

Call to order at 9:06 am

Motion to accept September Meeting Minutes

Arts & Culture Events Coordinator Job Description

Karen sent David job descriptions from other communities and he drafted a job description for Gloucester. He noticed a trend towards hiring Arts & Cultural Planners as opposed to Arts & Cultural Events Coordinator. This job is leaning towards events rather than planning, based on bandwidth and need. David pulled out higher level needs for a Phase 2 to hold off and add later on as a hopeful job expansion in the future. The description has been sent to the administration to review. Committee members can review and send any comments to David by the end of the week. The goal is to hire for the position by the end of the year.

Comprehensive Plan Update

It has been about 20 years since the last Gloucester Comprehensive Plan was undertaken in 2000-2001. An arts plan was part of the comprehensive 2001 plan and was a significant help for this committee. There's been two census data updates out from that time which means a lot of comparisons can be made since the last plan. A first phase of the process will start in January 2023 and continue until May or June, happening internally at the city. The public facing phase of the process, including vision setting and community discussions, will begin in the late spring or early summer. Inspired by the Public Art Master Plan of Salem, this committee could advocate a master plan for the arts in Gloucester. Karen will share Salem's Master plan, which started in 2013 which has led to two full-time staff members including a Public Art Planner.

Committee for the Arts Ordinance

In September 2016, the Committee for the Arts sent proposed changes to the administration at the time. The administration returned proposed changes in December 2016, which did not include many of the suggestions from the committee and was not enacted. Because of this, the original ordinance from 2000 is still in place. The last change on the enacted document is from August 2015. The current administration would like to take the Mayor out as a voting member

and potentially add alternates so the quorum is smaller. Currently the committee stands at 7 members and needs a quorum of 4 members.

- 1.) Change the makeup to take the Mayor out and maintain seven members. The Committee would be able to take on one more member from the community.
- 2.) Look at the duties currently outlined and make suggestions for next meeting.
- 3.) Review and simplify the Poet Laureate meet with section. Shift from “shall” to “may.”

Poet Laureate

Discussion of the Poet Laureate process, how it happened historically, and how to move forward.

Cultural Plan

Ideally would have a cultural planning consultant that would develop a specific Arts & Culture Plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan next year. ECCF has a cultural planning consultant, Tom Borrup, who could come in and meet with us. ECCF is paying for him to get the process going. He can assess what exists for planning, get updated about the current status for the city, and help us figure out where we need to go from here. He has helped the city of Worcester and many others locally and is based in Minneapolis.

Public Art Policy

No Public Art Policy was ever officially accepted onto the books. As we discuss public art, we should think about areas of Gloucester that are very popular but have no public art. We should think about where we're placing sculptures to activate areas of Gloucester in addition to Downtown. The committee is not here for funding public art, but for overseeing and facilitating conversations about what's appropriate and where it should go. Should review the policy that was proposed.

Current Projects

- **Frank Davis Portrait:** Review of the current status of the portrait. Next steps, Judith will speak with the donor and with the Mayor about next steps.
- **Tablet Rock:** Review of current status of Tablet Rock. It looks like potentially a \$10,000-15,000 process at the end of the day. As soon as we have the official cost we can check with the Mayor about the funding.
- **Diane Chen** proposed a mosaic installation at city hall for the Gloucester 400+ Anniversary but it became infeasible because the panels were too big. She spoke with the last Mayor and the committee was not directly involved.
- **Mishoon Sculpture Project:** Miranda is working with the Gloucester 400+ Anniversary's Diversity & Equity committee on a Mishoon project. Mishoons are a Native canoe made by tribes from the Eastern Woodlands. The concept is to work with Native partners to carve a real Mishoon in 2023 and potentially work towards casting it in bronze as a permanent art piece acknowledging the Native People of the Land.

- Rebecca was having discussions around carving a canoe at Manship Artists Retreat. She recommends speaking with Lois Russell from the Society of Arts & Crafts and Jim Montgomery about this project.
- **Juni Van Dyke** has a model for a public art sculpture for Solomon Jacob's Landing. Is a sculpture in recognition of Cape Pond Ice's contribution to the fishing industry. Interactive pile of ice cubes made out of resin. Permanently affixed to a space. Has done initial research with Mags Harries.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 7 at 9:00 am in the Gloucester Harbormaster Office