

**Gloucester Committee for the Arts
Minutes of Meeting Held on 26 April 2023
Harbormasters Office**

In Attendance:

Karen Ristuben, Chair
Miranda Aisling, Secretary
Rebecca Reynolds
Judith Hoglander
David Calvo
Phillip Storey
David Fields, Community Development Coordinator

8:34 am Meeting Called to Action

Discussion of the Meeting Minutes

Rebecca Reynolds has asked that we remove a section from last month's notes about the security tied to the Generous Gardeners. This section was removed and notes were approved.

Arts, Culture, and Events Coordinator Update

An offer has been made for the Arts, Events, and Culture Coordinator. We are waiting to hear if she's accepted and should have an update by next meeting.

CPC Application

The Community Preservation Committee application is due on June 2 and comes down to two categories: 1.) assessments of city-owned sculptures, Rebecca has identified 8 of those, bronze historic plaques, which still need to be inventoried, and an update of the current murals assessments and 2.) conservation of sculptures, bronze plaques, and murals. Three professional firms are in mind to cover murals, sculptures, and plaques. Rebecca and Judith are collecting more information.

Historic commission has to provide information about whether the city owned sculptures and plaques are considered historic. We don't need the actual determination on Tuesday when we submit, we can provide it over the next couple of months. Judith has connected with Jill Cahill to find information from Williamstown Arts assessment in 2018 on the murals underneath the stage, including a digital report and a video. There was a total of about \$4,500 to preserve those.

The determination is made in Fall 2023. Funds, if allocated, would start to come through early next year. We're asking for \$150,000. The application also asks for a letter of support, which Karen drafted and read to the group. She asked for signatures and approval.

Phil asked where the murals will end up going, Karen said that will be discussed at a later time.

City Collections Subcommittee Brief Report

Has met several times, mostly to deal with the CPC application. Richard Jabba apparently applied 10 years ago to the CPC for funding to do the inventory project. He says there are about a half dozen plaques in Gloucester and will give a firmer count later today. Some of the historic plaques have a scan code already tied to them which raises questions about whether they were already inventoried.

For the next meeting, Judith raised the importance of circling back to the Mayor's portraits and city hall restoration after the CPC application is sent in. Miranda asked if we could include the actual language on the historic plaques in the inventory so we can be aware of what history the city is telling.

Ordinance/Policies and Procedures Subcommittee Brief Report

This subcommittee has also met to start working on the Policies and Procedures document. The group started to review the old 2005 Policy Handbook to see if some of it could be transferable or translatable. We will also review the Elizabeth Keithline proposal from 2016. Phil is working on the section about the Poet Laureate, the major missing part is funding and support for the

Judith has several documents and is in contact with former committee members who have documents. Rebecca started a conversation with the City Archives and they're discussing whether they will take some of the historic documents. They need to know how many documents there are, which Judith can start working on.

City Budget

Last night, the Mayor put out the budget to the Budget & Finance Committee. It is a several week process. The Mayor received the letter from the committee. David Fields put in his operating budget request, an increase from \$3,000 in previous years to \$5,000, and included the letter from the committee. Karen requested that if there is an opportunity for the committee to advocate for growing the budget.

Karen asked about the ARPA budget for the Tablet Rock project and the inventory assessment work. David confirmed that it is rolling along and that the Mayor

Tablet Rock

The request for work has been sent out to the three consultants that Rebecca recommended, the Department of Public Works is on board for overseeing the work. At this point, we're waiting to hear back from the consultants and then the award can be provided. Rebecca raised an awareness about which of the consultants can do the bronze work or the stone work. If Roger Armstrong is amenable, he would have to make a gift to City Council. David Fields will follow up now that the request for work is out.

Proposed Donation: Roger Curtis paintings

There has been a proposed donation by Judith Curtiss of some of Roger Curtiss' (1910-2000) paintings to the city. Four large seascapes, oil on canvas, painted during the mid-to-late twentieth century. For the current ordinance, we would need to make a recommendation to the Mayor on whether or not to accept them.

We would need to see them and know their condition. If someone on the committee knows her, the next step would be to arrange a time and location to look at them. Judith recommends that the Collection Committee goes to take a look and makes a recommendation.

Gruppe Exhibition

For the upcoming Gruppe Exhibition, Gloucester 400+ requested the use of Kyrouz Auditorium with Karen Tibbet, who is coordinating the event. To rent the space, there's a form to fill out. This kind of event likely wouldn't come in front of Committee for the Arts.

Frank Davis Portrait

We are currently waiting to hear back from the Mayor about next steps. Judith will follow up.

Cultural Plan/City Master Plan

The city is working towards finalizing the planner for the upcoming City Master Plan. Once that's done, the committee can work with Tom Borrup, the new planner, and hopefully the new Arts, Culture, and Event planner to work on the cultural plan for the city.

Mush8n Project

Miranda shared information about the upcoming wooden mush8n project done by the Gloucester 400+ Committee in partnership with the SmokeSygnals. The Gloucester 400+ committee is requesting \$20,900 from the Mayor to help fund the creation of the

wooden mushroom. In the future, this project will be proposed as a permanent sculpture at which point it will formally come before the committee.

Murals

David Calvo asked about the golden lobster mural. Karen clarified that it was painted on private property so it wouldn't have come before this committee at any point. The city doesn't have any jurisdiction over private property.

Harborwalk

Judith was asking about the Harbor Walk and who has jurisdiction over it. David Fields clarified that, as with all public property, it's covered by DPW. There is currently a grant to do an assessment of the boardwalk.

Meeting adjourned at Wednesday, April 26 at 9:25 am

Next meeting is on May 30 at 8:30 am