

**Gloucester Committee for the Arts
Minutes of Meeting Held on 27 June 2023
Harbormasters Office**

In Attendance:

Karen Ristuben, Chair
Miranda Aisling, Secretary
Rebecca Reynolds
Judith Hoglander
David Calvo
Phillip Storey
Rebecca Nagle

8:36 am Meeting Called to Action

May Meeting Minutes approved at 8:36 am

Updates from City Hall

No update on the Arts, Events, and Culture Coordinator, It's currently with HR.

No update on the ARPA money, David Fields will be meeting with the ARPA Fund Coordinator after the new fiscal year on July 1.

Comprehensive Planning Initiative for the City of Gloucester's cultural plan will be kicking off on September 9 at the Cape Ann Museum.

Tom Borrup, the culture planning advisor, will be here in the fall. Either late September or October.

City Collections Subcommittee

Subcommittee met at City Hall to see where paintings by Roger and Judith Curtis could be displayed. There are four paintings which are very large, the largest is five feet by four feet wide. All the paintings are of ocean scenes on Bass Rocks. Important paintings, the frames and the paintings are in great shape, don't need any work. An inventory from several years ago valued them between \$5,000 - \$15,000.

Subcommittee proposed a vote to write a letter of recommendation to the city for the paintings to be accepted via a deed of gift. The full committee voted to approve.

There was some discussion about where the paintings will be placed. There's a strong interest from the CPA Committee in having these paintings stay in city buildings. They could be placed on either side of the stairs at City Hall leaving the balcony of the

auditorium. Also looked at the City Clerk's office and the conference room at City Hall. If the city accepted them, they would need to come in after renovations, which is currently a two year timeline.

The recommendation to accept the Kari Ruiz City painting from the last meeting has been moved from the Mayor to City Council. Judith Hoglander will follow up with Mayor Verga about the recommendation for the Frank Davis Portrait.

Ordinance/Policies and Procedures Subcommittee

The subcommittee met this past month and will have a longer working meeting in July. The subcommittee will try to have something completed for September so that a proposed Policies & Procedures could move through the city to be enacted in 2024.

Tablet Rock Update

The city is finalizing a contract with Daedalus Inc for Tablet Rock which should be finalized and established in the new fiscal year.

Property tax relief for cultural spaces

David Calvo has proposed an idea to incubate new cultural spaces and to try to bring new artists here or retain artists here. Give a property tax break if there is a studio or connection to the cultural community.

David C will do research to see if there are any other communities who have done this. Karen suggested that we would have to have numbers and data to explain the impact. Rebecca R suggested talking to Action Inc, which receives funding from the CPC to help people retain their housing. Suggest talking to Matt Lunberg at the Community Preservation Committee.

Discussion about how to de-incentivize rental and AirBnB, discussed examples from many cities. One of the issues will be who counts as an artist, the City of Boston has some interesting examples. Kara Elliott Ortega is the head of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston and has done a lot of research.

Proposed restoration of bronze plaque next to cannon on boulevard

No update on this project. The project uses private money and private people coordinating, so the committee made the recommendation to the Mayor to continue. Received a thank you from Karen Tibbets for shepherding it through. Rebecca Nagle heard a story about the work already being done. Rebecca Reynolds suggested that we should get a report with documentation of what was done and photographs of before and after. Ask for a treatment plan and documentation.

<https://goodmorningglooucester.com/2023/06/16/sprucing-up-the-plaques-on-the-boulevard/>

Other Updates

The Arts and Culture committee of the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce met and was formed. The committee will work with the chamber to improve the calendar listing in regards to culture. They are considering doing business training for arts and cultural leaders. Meet with other committees to align with arts and culture.

David C proposed having cultural artists and institutions link from one website to another to send visitors to shared websites. Karen mentioned the ECCF initiative to use #EssexCountyCreates. Miranda suggested building off of that energy to use #CapeAnnCreates.

Discussion around creating a campaign for the Committee for the Arts: #CapeAnnCreates. Miranda volunteered to create a letter to send to cultural partners for the committee to review. Websites could list a link to [instagram.com/capeanncreates](https://www.instagram.com/capeanncreates)

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:21 am