



**Public Art Commission
MINUTES
February 26, 2020**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Hatfield, Kelli Roberts, Ashley Kamara

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Shey Bland – DTR Inc.

Raymond Burns – Chamber of Commerce

Ethan Hunter – City Planner

Ed McClure – Ex-Officio Member

John McCurdy – Community Development Director

Karen Wagaman – Chamber of Commerce

PUBLIC FORUM

Hatfield called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM and opened the public forum. There were no comments made and the forum was closed.

ROLL CALL

Hatfield asked for a roll call of commissioners present. Dayton Castleman was not in attendance.

ACTION ON MINUTES

Roberts motioned to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2019, meeting. Kamara seconded.

Voice vote: YES (unanimous). Minutes adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual re-election of officers.

This item was moved up on the agenda as Esposito had not yet arrived for her presentation. After a brief discussion, Roberts motioned to keep the current officers in place. Kamara seconded.

Voice vote: YES (unanimous). Hatfield remains Chair and Roberts remains Vice Chair.

2. A presentation by Allyson Esposito of the NWA Council informing the commission of recent developments in regional arts and culture strategy.

Esposito had not arrived by the time this agenda item was introduced, so Hatfield adjourned the meeting for 10 minutes between 4:40 PM and 4:50 PM. Upon Esposito's arrival, McCurdy introduced her to the commission and briefly explained her role with the NWA Council before deferring to Esposito for further presentation.

Esposito gave an overview of her professional background in change management, strategic planning, and cultural arts administration, and how it has led her to Northwest Arkansas. She explained that her position with the NWA Council is to initiate and execute a cultural planning process for the region by working with each city to outline their individual priorities within a broader regional framework. McCurdy shared his thoughts on the philanthropic investments that NWA has received over time that have fostered the current cultural arts environment, and how this effort by the NWA Council to assemble a cohesive regional strategy is an important continuation of previous investments. He noted that this is an opportunity to expand on recently collected Artspace survey data and asset inventories.

McCurdy explained that Rogers will be the first NWA city to collaborate and consult with Esposito to undergo a cultural arts strategic planning process. To support this endeavor, the Walton Family Foundation has provided funding assistance for two city staff positions to manage cultural arts and liaise with Esposito. Esposito added that it is crucial for cities to increase their role in cultural arts planning as it is intrinsically connected to all other public endeavors. She stated that in order to expand cross-sector participation in cultural arts planning, cities need more than vision statements, as in detailed action plans that include “dollars and cents,” task assignments, and leadership accountability. Esposito stated that the anticipated “kickoff” date for this process is April 1, 2020, and will include a community engagement piece.

Kamara expressed that she’s interested in seeing the commission’s role evolve to be more hands-on. Roberts and Hatfield agreed that the commission should be more proactive than it currently is in terms of facilitating public art projects. Esposito then asked the commissioners about their backgrounds and what connects them to the idea of public art in Rogers. McCurdy provided a brief overview of the hiring process for the aforementioned staff position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

Hatfield adjourned the meeting at 5:31 PM.