

AMAC meeting minutes for July 14, 2021, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor of City Hall
8 East Washington Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

In Attendance: Andrew Chiki, Jeff Risner, Holly Ittel, Josh Birnbaum, Kelly Lawrence, Kelee Riesbeck, Chelsa Morahan

I. Call to Order and legislative updates: Andrew Chiki & Jeff Risner

City council is on recess for July.

The city has signed a contract for renovations for Arts West and the work should begin in two weeks. They used a local contractor. In the future, if the city decides to put up protective walls, AMAC could plan to decorate and incorporate art.

II. Minutes from June 9, 2021 for approval: Josh Birnbaum

Corrections:

1. Commissioner Kelee Riesbeck's name is corrected in four places (Kelee, not "Kellee")
2. July 14th AMAC meeting will be at City Council Chambers instead of Zoom, due to the Governor's Order expiring (this was not mentioned at the meeting but added retroactively and this was noted).

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES AS CORRECTED: **PASSED**

III. Arts West / Arts of APRD Update

The Arts West Gallery is hosting Sage and Bryn Perrott's show "ill-humored" now through July 30th.

Local photographer Matthew Shaw will display his series "Portraits on Porches" at the Community Center starting later this week, through August 28th.

Afternoon Arts has registration open for Music, Visual Arts, Ceramics and Puppetry for students K-2, and 3-5.

Crafternoon classes at The Community Center will continue to have open registration through the end of July.

Auditions for Ohio Valley Summer Theater's production of "Clue" will occur on Wednesday, August 4th.

The PRISM LGBTQ program will be hosting bi-weekly game days Wednesdays at Arts West through August 18th.

IV. Ongoing Public Projects:

a. Community Center Mural: Beth Braun

Beth took a look at the finished mural panels and they are looking good. It is not installed yet, but the city will proceed soon. WOUB did a nice written piece on the mural project. Is there a reception or ribbon cutting? Perhaps late August or early September? A press release could be drafted and Andrew can distribute to local media.

AMAC doesn't have a social media presence currently. Could AMAC have a social media account to promote the art we promote? We should talk to Scott Thompson about this. The Disabilities commission has a social media presence. This could help give more positive attention to AMAC's actions, and help recruit jurors and future commissioners. AMAC could have visuals of a lot of public art and events!

b. Art Outside the Box: Chelsa Morahan

AMAC would like an RFP prepped for the next round of traffic box wraps and ready for spring of next year. Did we have a map at one time with all locations that have already been wrapped? No document can be found. Andy Stone is on leave and he handled all this. As part of the art walk and art archive, can we match location to each piece? What's open and what is already filled? Some of the early wraps need to be replaced, and there's some graffiti. So how do we go about selecting locations to fill in empty boxes, and start to replace older ones?

AMAC will need an entire meeting to go over a draft of the RFP and plan dates for deadlines and process. AMAC will need 3 months or so to get folks to submit. Then we will need to select a jury, and leave time for possible extensions. Then we can designate a timeline for jury to meet and select. Then time to approve through AMAC and city council, and notify artists (10 finals and 5 alternates), and produce and install wraps.

Deadline should be March or April at the latest, and final work would be presented at the August or September AMAC meeting. One change: individuals will apply, not organizations. Holly will start on this project. Can it still be emailed

to the AMAC email address or can it be dropped off to Arts West? How can we get different jurors from the community?

c. Athens Photo Project Youth Exhibit: Josh Birnbaum

APP should consider another spot: the green behind McCracken and Seigfred and Glidden: it would be the symbolic intersection of arts, education and youth. Also it's very accessible and has lots of parking.

Suggestion: The bridge on Richland avenue has a sign. Patty in the mayor's office handles permission and we would have to get on the schedule to show there. The schedule opens up on Jan. 1st! Additionally, Weld house is being demolished and could be a future venue.

APP is looking to align the exhibit opening with the September 24th Lynn Johnson – Van Gogh Affect exhibit at the Kennedy Museum of Art.

Kari's project, part of her Ohio Poet Laureateship, is around mental health. Could she read a poem at the reception? Would the kids want to participate? Could she come to class? Could she have the kids write? Something outdoors, in Athens, would be desirable for her.

V. Ongoing Commission Business:

a. Mural Walk, the mAppAthens project: Josh Birnbaum

Can we do more than two sentences for each artwork? Josh will send out Excel spreadsheet so we can start collaborating on gathering data about each mural.

b. Ohio Arts Council Governor's Arts Awards: Josh Birnbaum & Kelee Riesbeck

Deadline is August 24th! Kelee will finish a draft this week, then I will review, and we will get it to AMAC and solicit letters! The OAC had two webinars in best practices in applying for the Governor's Arts Awards recently. Josh and Kelee can review.

c. Review Ordinance 0.46.02 (Code Number 3.07.50)

Chelsa mainly wants to look at the powers and duties, what is AMAC actually doing, and where to we want to put our focus in the future. We are trying to work more in conjunction with city Arts, Park and Recreation board. Can we do things together and be in touch about what we are doing?

More performance art could be a focus for the future: music, dance, or even a series of performances. Like a First Fridays for performances. Parklets could be a mini-stage area for a busker or open stage. They can be used for additional dining, or artwork, gardens, performance. They take up two parking spaces, and can be dismantled, and are mainly used in the warm months. Fee is small. AMAC could adopt a parklet and use on a regular basis for art, gathering and performance. AMAC will talk about this in the future more. Could we do a celebration for AMAC's 20th in 2022?

d. AMAC Member to attend APRD Advisory Board Meetings

Chelsa will be going tomorrow to listen to figure out what APRD wants to learn about AMAC.

VI. Commission Action Items:

a. New Member Handbook Items

Kelee added some questions that are very helpful! Other commissioners please contribute.

VII. Announcements and other business:

a. Possible Future Meetings at Arts West

Chelsa will talk with city administration and Arts West about where AMAC can meet, and whether we want to be recorded.

VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 11, 2021, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers