

**NASHVILLE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021**

Commission members present by remote access via Zoom: President Melanie Voland, Vice-President Anabel Hopkins, Secretary Andra Walters, Member Jonah Crismore, Member Mike Hater, Member Cathy Martin, Member Ann McCann and Member Mark Schmidt. Commission member not present: Member Patrick Bennett. Also in attendance by remote access via Zoom – Indiana State Fingerstyle Guitar Competition Event Producer Chuck Wills and Records Clerk Sandie Jones.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

1) CALL TO ORDER

President Voland called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

2) ROLL CALL

Roll call by President Voland. She then asked for a moment of silence to recognize and acknowledge that over 527,000 people have died from COVID-19 since a year ago yesterday.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 2-11-2021 MEETING

Vice-President Hopkins made a motion to approve the 2-11-2021 meeting minutes as presented. Member Crismore seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor.

4) INDIANA STATE FINGERSTYLE GUITAR COMPETITION – CHUCK WILLS

President Voland introduced former NAEC Vice-President Chuck Wills to the Commission.

Mr. Wills advised that this year will be the tenth year for the Indiana State Fingerstyle Guitar Competition. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they held the event virtually last year and it was well received. They have had big plans for their tenth anniversary for several years but will need to look at what is doable. They have sent out surveys regarding the event and most people want the event to be held in person; but, they don't know what things will be like by the end of July 2021.

Mr. Wills advised that they have decided to have the competition and concert at the Brown County Playhouse in person this year. He reported that they are working with the Brown County Playhouse Executive Director Hannah Estabrook to determine what they can do for the event. They don't know how many people can attend the event in July. They are still in talks with the Brown County Inn regarding the Friday night party event or whether it should be an outdoor only event.

Mr. Wills reported that they have done a live stream of the event for the past five years. They have wanted to graduate from a free stream to a professional pay per view event. He has been working with Rainwater Studios, the Brown County Playhouse and digital platform, Mandolin, to work out live streaming of the event. Mandolin would handle all the ticketing and help with marketing. Mr. Wills advised the last time they had a free live stream of the event they had 19,000 viewers.

In order to have a professional live stream of the event they will need sponsorships. The cost to do the professional stream for pay per view is approximately \$2,500. Mr. Wills explained if they do pay per view, this will launch their event into the future and give the Brown County Playhouse better visibility.

Member Hater advised that he held the ukulele festival on Zoom in June 2020, and it was fun. They

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even had ukulele players from Japan participate. Mr. Wills will get together with Mr. Hater to hear more about how they worked out this event.

Member Crismore reported that he has worked with Mandolin in his position as Director of the Buskirk Chumley Theater in Bloomington. He noted that Mandolin charges for tickets and he wondered if that would be money that the Playhouse would lose. Mr. Wills explained the ticketing structure and advised that they have not finalized with the Playhouse the revenue sharing numbers. Long-term, he would like the Brown County Playhouse to be a known spot for Mandolin. Member Crismore offered to talk with Mr. Wills about tips for using Mandolin.

Member Wills would love the Nashville Arts and Entertainment Commission to be a sponsor of the event by helping to fund the pay per view. Discussion. Mr. Wills would like to know if the NAEC will be sponsoring the event by the end of April. He will get back with solid numbers to the Commission in the next couple of weeks.

After Mr. Wills left the meeting, the Commission members discussed funding. Secretary Walters commented that they should be helping as many organizations as possible this year. This may mean that they can't give large amounts to any one organization, rather, smaller amounts to more organizations. Vice-President Hopkins and Member McCann commented that they should definitely help out the Fingerstyle event. Discussion.

President Voland asked the Commission what they would consider a reasonable allocation to sponsor the Indiana State Fingerstyle Competition. Discussion of projects and groups that may also ask for funds. President Voland summarized that the Commission will consider \$500-\$1,500 for sponsorship of the 10th Annual Fingerstyle competition. They will address the funding request at next month's meeting when they have a written request for funding.

President Voland advised they will be using their 2021 IAC grant funds to support the Brown County ChamberFest and Christkindl Artisan Market.

5) ART WALK UPDATE

President Voland listed the 18 sponsors/participants in the Art Walk this year. She has reviewed the Art Walk brochure with Tess Kean of Two Great Designs to try and make it the same size as last year. President Voland advised that Sharon Bussert has changed the Art Walk Facebook page name to 4th Friday Art Walk to be more consistent with branding.

A. BUSKERS

President Voland advised they will have seven Art Walks this year and plan to have two buskers per event. Member Hater reported that they paid each busker \$75 to play at the Art Walks last year. If they spend that same amount this year it will cost \$1,050.

President Voland advised they will need to talk with the Brown County Playhouse about their schedule so that the buskers playing in this area will not be in the way of the ticket line. Vice-President Hopkins noted that across the street the Nashville House will also be having live music during the Art Walks. President Voland advised they may reconsider playing in front of the Playhouse during some of the Art Walks. She reported that the buskers also played on the southeast corner of the Village Green in the stage area last year. Discussion. Member Hater will contact the someone from the Playhouse about dates. He will also check with the Visitors Center about having a busker play there in April.

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Member Hater advised that there is a ukulele player who would make a great Bob Ross impersonator. He thought this would be fun addition to the Art Walk and asked the Commission for their feedback. Member Crismore commented that this may be a good alternative to the musical buskers. President Voland asked Member Hater to make sure that the person has all the appropriate Bob Ross parameters checked and that he can provide the props. Vice-President Hopkins asked if there were trademark issues. Member Schmidt suggested that Member Hater reach out to the estate of Bob Ross to make sure this would be ok to do. Records Clerk Jones asked that they get permission in writing to have a Bob Ross impersonator perform in Nashville.

Member Hater made a motion to employ musical buskers and performance artists this year at a rate of \$75 per busker/artist up to \$1,050 with the funds will coming out of the NAEC edit funds. Member Crismore seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor.

6) UPDATES ON GRANTS

A. IAC 2020 GRANT AND YEAR END REPORT

President Voland reported that the 2020 IAC year-end report has been submitted and been accepted by the IAC.

B. IAC 2021 GRANT

President Voland advised the 2021 IAC Cultural District Grant request has been completed and submitted with the help of past NAEC President Michele Wedel. This grant request has been accepted by the IAC.

C. FY20 REGIONAL GRANT – ANABEL

Vice-President Hopkins reported that all the supplies have been delivered to the school and the students can start working on the barn quilts. She noted they have a small amount of funds left to use in case the second teacher needs additional materials. Vice-President Hopkins advised that she will submit a final grant report by the June 2021 due date so they can get the remainder of the grant funds.

7) COMMISSION PRIORITIES

President Voland advised that the Commission has previously discussed the Commission's priorities for 2021. They chose the Art Walk and the CVB brochure update as their first priorities due to time constraints and grant funding. President Voland will work with the CVB to make sure more music is included in the final brochure.

President Voland talked about NAEC priorities for the year. She suggested funding the Fingerstyle Guitar competition, funding Christkindl market, funding ChamberFest and issuing a press release to invite art collaborations to come before the Commission. She asked each member what they think the Commission's next priorities should be.

Member Crismore would like to work with more public art and murals, as these will give people more of an incentive to travel here.

Member Schmidt wants to see the Christkindl Market as a priority. He noted that he is the committee chair for the overall decoration and design. He noted that Member McCann is the committee chair for vendors and artists for the market. Member Schmidt will update the NAEC at next month's meeting on the Christkindl Market plans. He would also like to work on a mural project, but sees this as a long term project with a lot of people involved.

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Member Martin commented that she is impressed on how this group is working together and advancing ideas. She gave a history of the Cultural District and explained that CVB Director Jane Ellis had a group of people working with her to be able to create a cultural district. They had an advisor from the State who told them they weren't ready or qualified to be a cultural district. CVB Director Ellis did not accept this feedback, so she, Kathy Anderson and Cathy Martin worked to put the proposal and request together to become a Cultural District. The Arts Village Brown County was granted Indiana State Cultural District status in 2012.

Member McCann advised her priorities are the Christkindl Market and working on the crosswalks with the Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee.

Secretary Walters commented that her personal goal is to work with Member Martin on the Hoffman Funds to decide how they want to distribute those funds in the future. Do they want to identify one or two large projects to spend the funds or do they want to keep this as a perpetual fund for the future? She would love to see entrance signage to the Town; but, not sure how to go about this very large long-term project.

Secretary Walters advised that she and Member Martin met with the Brown County Playhouse mural committee regarding their proposed outdoor building mural. She expects that the Playhouse Board will come to the NAEC for funding through the Hoffman Fund.

Vice-President Hopkins commented that continued outreach is very important. They need to hear from the groups that want the NAEC's support. She believes they have done a good job of supporting the musical community; but, haven't supported theater much, and she suggested they could support the high school theatre and other venues. She proposed a long-term goal would be to establish a barn quilt trail.

Member Hater would like to get more live music in Town but due to COVID it is hard for him to plan anything big. He believes it will be easier to get buskers to play this year and is hoping for a larger base to choose from. Member Hater likes that they are getting closer with the Playhouse. He would like the NAEC to explore using Zoom for music events.

8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Member McCann reported the Hamblin Township Fire Department would like someone to paint a mural on their building. They have funds for the materials but cannot pay the artist. President Voland suggested that Member McCann contact the Artist Associates of Brown County and have them do a call out for artists. Another idea would be to contact BCHS art teacher, Andi Bartels, to organize a collaborative project with the high school students.

President Voland reported that the ads the NAEC purchased last year have been installed at Salt Creek Golf Course. The tag line for the ads is "take home more than a memory" encouraging people to come into the galleries purchase items.

President Voland advised that past NAEC President Wedel will finish repairing the High Lonesome sculpture once the weather gets warmer. When the repairs are completed, we will work with the Artist Colony to install the sculpture on their property.

President Voland reported the plaques for the Marie Goth interactive art sculpture are still being designed. The NAEC hopes to have the plaques installed and hold a formal dedication sometime late

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spring.

President Voland advised the next meeting of the NAEC via Zoom will be held on April 8, 2021 at 10 am.

9) ADJOURNMENT

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Hopkins seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor. President Voland adjourned the meeting at 11:42 am.

The audio recording made at the Nashville Arts and Entertainment Commission meeting on 3-11-2021 is retained in the office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer.

President Melanie Voland

Date