

**NASHVILLE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

Commission members present by remote access via Zoom: President Michele Wedel, Vice-President Melanie Voland, Secretary Anabel Hopkins (arrived at 10:08am), Treasurer Cathy Martin (arrived at 10:15am), Member Jonathan Bolte, Member Mike Hater and Member Andra Walters (arrived at 10:15am). Also in attendance by remote access – RiverSong Music Festival Representative Annie Hawk and Records Clerk Sandie Jones.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2) ROLL CALL**

All Commission members present stated their names.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 10-08-2020 MEETINGS**

Member Bolte made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 10-08-2020 as presented. Vice-President Voland seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor.

**4) PRESENTATION – RIVERSONG MUSIC FESTIVAL – ANNIE HAWK**

Annie Hawk introduced herself to the Commission and advised that she has been involved in music for years and ran a concert series at her church in Chicago for several years. Now that she has moved to Brown County, she is the impresario of the Bean Blossom Music Festival with the Saint David's Episcopal Church's outreach program.

RiverSong Music is a 501(C)(3) organization that started in 2017 with their first concert in Galena Illinois. They didn't hold the event for two years but were scheduled to have the festival again this year in Galena but due to COVID-19 they were forced to cancel.

Ms. Hawk advised they have re-calibrated and would like to hold the RiverSong Music Festival in Nashville/Brown County in mid-August of 2021. This would not conflict with other music festivals in the area. She explained that several of the board members and artistic director have ties with Brown County and the Bloomington area. They would also be using Indiana University faculty and the Fry Quartet along with guest lecturers. The music would be mostly classical along with some jazz. Ms. Hawk advised that this would be a four-day festival and they are still working out all the logistics as to the music venues as well as housing options.

Ms. Hawk reported that they will be applying for an Impact Grant through the Brown County Community Foundation. They will be submitting the grant application in December. She advised that their budget is about \$25,000 for the event. She asked the Commission for funding help as well.

The theme for the festival will be Beethoven with some more modern music as well. She has contacted local musician and Indiana State Fingerstyle Guitar Festival promotor Chuck Wills for guidance in working in Brown County. He encouraged her to work with the CVB Director Jane Ellis. Member Hater suggested they contact Mary Curtin at the Brown County Inn as this is a great venue and great people to work this. Treasurer Martin suggested Ms. Hawk contact Kathy Anderson who



## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

has put on a music festival in Nashville many years ago but it was not well attended. She thought Ms. Anderson could give her information on her experience hosting a music festival. Discussion. Vice-President Voland offered to help promote the event and give them information on best places to put money in advertising.

President Wedel thanked Ms. Hawk for her presentation and advised the Commission will talk about funding options. Ms. Hawk thanked the Commission for their time, and she will have RiverSong's artistic director come talk to the Commission next month with updates on the festival.

### **5) UPDATES ON GRANTS**

#### **A. REGION 8 PROJECT GRANT – ANABEL**

Secretary Hopkins reported that she is keeping in contact with the school's art teachers about the barn quilt painting project. She has tried to contact Eagle Manufacturing about possibly videoing taping the painting lessons to be shown in the classrooms. Vice-President Voland advised that Junior High and High School are closed until November 29, 2020 due to COVID-19.

Secretary Hopkins has been in contact with the lumber company about the boards they need for the project and they will get back to her when they have the product back in stock. She has been working on lesson plans and gathering materials. President Wedel recommended that each of the video lessons not go beyond 15-20 minutes.

#### **B. CULTURAL DISTRICT 2020 FUNDING GRANT**

President Wedel reported they have until April 16, 2021 to use their \$5,000 Cultural District funds from 2020. They must use the 2020 funds before they can receive their 2021 funds of \$4,000 and the funds must be used for two separate projects. Records Clerk Jones recommended that they spend their 2020 funds no later than March 2021 so all the invoices are completed before the April 2021 deadline.

President Wedel suggested using the 2020 funds for getting the Arts Village Brown County brochure updated and get as many printed as possible. She explained that the CVB has laid people off and not sure of their funding to reprint brochures. She is willing to talk with CVB Director Ellis to see if \$5,000 will be enough to get the brochures printed. The Commission members were unanimously in agreement of using the grant funds this way to bring tourism and funding to our art and music venues.

Secretary Hopkins suggested they keep the brochure generic so that it can be used if COVID-19 continues they can use the brochures for several years. Treasurer Martin asked if they want to continue the leaf program and if so, they need to ramp up the program. Secretary Hopkins suggested some of the funding could go toward the Art Walk brochures next year. This could lower sponsorship fees or allow for broader advertise of the events.

President Wedel suggested the Marketing Committee meet and come up with an overall marketing plan with the grant funds. They can also have an in-depth discussion about the leaf program and if they want to continue or modify. The Marketing Committee then can bring their recommendations back to the NAEC for approval. All commission members were in favor of this plan.

### **6) ART WALK UPDATE**

#### **A. OCTOBER EVENT**

Secretary Hopkins advised that the October Art Walk was fantastic and had great crowds. They had a



## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

potter doing demos in the parking lot of the art gallery until the rains came. It was a very well attended and profitable event.

Member Walters is interest to see how the Art Walk will do in November. Secretary Hopkins doesn't expect a great turnout for the November event as it will depend on the weather and it does get dark early in the day.

### **B. BUSKERS UPDATE**

Member Hater talked about buskers for the November Art Walk. He agreed that it gets dark early and the cold is not conducive for most instruments. Also, COVID-19 is worse than ever. He has not asked anyone to play this month. Secretary Hopkins commented this would be up to Member Hater to decide but she thought it would be ok not to have buskers this month.

President Wedel thanked Secretary Hopkins, Member Hater and Vice-President Volland for making this a successful Art Walk this year and the buskers were a great addition.

### **7) MARKETING UPDATE**

Vice-President Volland reported that she had been trying to reach out to smaller venues that have music. Now she will shift and go low on the music and concentrate on marketing village art and Brown County art. She is going to highlight the artists and galleries that sell on-line as they may be entering a very difficult winter due to COVID-19.

Treasurer Martin spoke about the new historic marker that Peaceful Valley Heritage has been working on. The marker will be like the Hohenberger marker in front of the Nashville House. This new marker is is to be installed at the Village Green and its subject is the Nashville Art Colony. Treasurer Martin is not sure when the dedication will happen, but she will keep the Commission informed.

Member Walters commented that Vice-President Volland rocks in the marketing department. Others on the Commission agreed and thanked her for her work.

Member Walters advised that the Art Guild's last event of the year will be held Saturday, November 21, 2020. The event is called Gift Shop Artisans and they will have music for the event. They are not sure how the event will go with COVID-19 but they don't anticipate droves of people attending.

Secretary Hopkins noted that the Humane Society Chocolate Walk this weekend. Vice-President Volland noted this is one of the largest fundraisers for the Human Society and encouraged people to volunteer if they felt comfortable doing so.

### **8) BANNER UPDATE – PROCEDURE UPDATE**

Member Bolte has been thinking into the future on how to adapt the way the banners are installed. He thinks they should put banners on only two poles: the NW and SE corners of Main and Van Buren. Each pole would have two banners installed on them. Member Bolte thought instead of having a loose banner, maybe have a solid sign promoting the arts village. Additionally, they could promote events by putting banners against the solid signs. He explained they need to be able to install the banners from the ground. Discussion.

President Wedel suggested they talk with Town staff and find a way they can consistently change out the banners or signs as needed. Member Hater advised that he spoke with Todd Baker and he would



## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

consider taking on the banner installation if the Town would include this in his landscaping contract. Records Clerk Jones noted the funds would have to come from the NAEC's budget.

Member Bolte discussed various options for installation. Discussion. Member Bolte, Member Walters and Member Hater will meet and talk about installation and banner options.

### **9) HIGH LONESOME RELOCATION**

President Wedel meet with the artist to look at the High Lonesome sculpture and he likes the way the piece is weathering. There is one soft spot on the sculpture that needs repaired. This is a multi-step process and President Wedel will see if the artist wants to do the repair. If not, President Wedel volunteered to do this.

BiBi Stutsman of the Artist Colony has agreed to have the High Lonesome sculpture installed in front of their building. President Wedel asked if someone from the Town staff would be able to install the sculpture. Records Clerk Jones advised she will need to contact Town Administration Manager Carr and Utility Worker Fox to see if this is something they can do.

### **10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

Treasurer Martin asked if the Commission was interested in having the leaf crosswalks again. President Wedel liked the idea of the leaf crosswalks but she would like to rethink the process and use a different vendor. She was not happy with the durability of the crosswalks as done.

President Wedel would like this to be a topic of discussion during next year's planning meeting. They may even investigate using vinyl crosswalks which is much more expensive. Discussion. Member Bolte suggested installing one high quality crosswalk with vinyl would be better than doing four crosswalks as before.

President Wedel reported the artwork has been completed for the advertising at the Salt Creek Golf Course. She shared the artwork on the Zoom screen with the Commission. President Wedel likes the call to action; Take a Memory Home with You. Discussion.

President Wedel announced that she will not be on the Commission next year. They need to think about inviting new members and what officers they want to elect. She is willing to work with the new NAEC President on IAC grant reports and help to finish the projects they have committed to.

Member Bolte announced that he too agreed to stay on this additional year, but he will not be serving on the Commission next year. He has also stepped away as President of the Brown County Studio Tour. He suggested they find another member of the studio tour to be a part of the Commission. Member Bolte noted he will still try to attend the monthly meetings.

Records Clerk Jones advised that she received one application for the Commission who is very interested in serving. She asked the Commission if this is a good date and time for them to meet. The Commission agreed this is a good meeting time. Records Clerk Jones noted the meetings will continue to be held via Zoom perhaps until the spring of 2021.

Member Hater asked if anyone pursued the idea of having the Tuba Santa's playing in town. Secretary Hopkins talked with a friend that is in the tuba group, but they are not playing this year due to COVID-19. Member Walters suggested they make this a goal for next year as they need something

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2020**


to look forward to.

President Wedel would like meet with Member Walters to finalize the plaques for the Marie in the Woods sculpture. Once they get the plaques purchased and installed, they can return any unused Hoffman Funds to the BC Community Foundation.

**11) ADJOURNMENT**

Member Walters made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer Martin seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor. President Wedel adjourned the meeting at 11:41am.

*The audio recording made at the Nashville Arts and Entertainment Commission meeting on 11-12-2020 is retained in the office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer.*

  
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President Michele Wedel

12-9-2020  
Date