

# NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

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## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

June 11, 2019

City Hall Room Auditorium

**Members in attendance:** Lindsay Rinaldi, Judy Carlson, John Egan, Jennifer LaTouche, Marc Thayer, Paul LaFlamme, Rachel Rendina,

**Absent:** Alison Isaksen, Sara Caesar, Bill Barry, Tracy Hall, Tina Cassidy

**Also present:** Amy DeRoche NAC Admin, Cecilia Ulibarri

Called to order: 8:07 am

1. Minutes: John made a motion, seconded by Paul to approve the May meeting minutes. Motion carries
2. Communications: Amy received a letter from the Mayor regarding the meeting held with some commission members where the budget was discussed. (see attached) Also see the attached report.
3. PAC Update: The capital campaign committee had its first major donor event at Stella Blu. It also included a tour of the site. The design committee will be meeting with the architects about the budget restraints. Currently the design is over budget. There are a street scape and electrical work that are necessary but were not included as part of the original budget.

4. Old Business: The remainder the of the budget (\$3000) needs to be allocated by the end of the fiscal year.

\*Motion was made by Judy and seconded by Marc to allocate \$1700 for the American for the Arts Survey. Motion carries

\*Motion was made by Judy and seconded by John to reserve \$200 for refreshments at the final workshop on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Motion carries

\*Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Rachel to evenly distribute the remaining \$1100 to grant applications which were not fully funded. Motion carries.

In the future it is requested that the Grant Evaluation Committee ranks the remaining grants so the end of FY funds distribution is easier.

NAC Working Groups: Lindsay reviewed the spreadsheet with the current members of the working groups (see attached). NAC members should be involved in at least one group to help move the projects forward. Lindsay asked all members present if they would like to change the group they are part of, or if they want to stay the same. Judy would like to see a separate Marketing and Workshops group. The addition of a Gallery at the Wall group is needed under special projects. Also a summary is required from CAN so the volunteers of the Gallery group know what is expected of them. The addition of a group for the Arts and Culture plan is also needed

under special projects. Members who are not present today will need to select a group they want to belong to.

5. New Business: So far the workshop on June 27<sup>th</sup> has a good response. The workshop will collect data for the 19/20 calendar. The second portion of the evening will focus on the Arts and Culture Plan.

Lindsay asked the NAC if there is a need to hold a meeting in July. It was agreed that the working groups should meet and Lindsay will prepare a potential budget to be presented at the August meeting.

\*Motion to adjourn was made by John and seconded by Jenn. Motion carries 9:20am

# Jim Donchess

Mayor • City of Nashua

June 5, 2019

Nashua Arts Commission  
229 Main Street  
Nashua, NH 03061

RE: Funding

Dear Nashua Arts Commission members,

This letter is to confirm the meeting between myself and members of the Nashua Arts Commission, including Tina Cassidy, Judith Carlson, Lindsay Rinadli and Marc Thayer. The meeting was held at Nashua City Hall, in the Mayor's Office on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. Cecilia Ulibarri, City of Nashua Constituent Services Coordinator, Office of the Mayor, was present at the meeting.

At this meeting, it was clarified that any remaining funds from the current Nashua Arts Commission budget for the current fiscal year may be used for purposes other than grant funding and may be designated at the discretion of the majority of the Nashua Arts Commission members. It was recommended the commission use part of the remaining available funds to pay for the outstanding American For The Arts Study fee of \$1,700.

Sincerely,



Jim Donchess, Mayor  
City of Nashua

NAC Budget Tracker	Original Budget Amount	YTD Expenditures	Date Released	Notes
	\$40,000.00		July 1, 2018	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Grant Awards	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	April 10, 2019	Approved on 3/12/19, \$6260 grant requests left unfulfilled
Discretionary Funds	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		
Workshops	\$400.00	\$0.00		
Marketing	\$1,600.00	\$0.00		
Total	\$40,000.00	\$37,000.00		
	<b>Total Remaining Funds</b>	\$3,000.00	Spending Deadline 6/11/19	

# NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION

## JUNE 2019 REPORTS

### MEETING WITH MAYOR ON COMMISSION FUNDING

Commissioners Carlson, Cassidy and Rinaldi met with Mayor Donchess and Cecilia Ulibarri on Tuesday, May 21.

The following issue and recommendations were reviewed with the Mayor:

We are here to resolve a problem:

- At March meeting when discussing a budget allocation for the final payment of the Americans for the Arts study, Commissioner Barry said that according to the charter the Commission should be allocating money only to grants.
- At the May meeting, Cecilia Ulibarri announced that the Mayor has said that the Commission should be allocating money only to grants

Why this is an issue:

- Arts and Culture Plan accepted by BOA in 2014 includes several actions including allocating part of the NAC budget for marketing (page 25)
- The Commission's budget was increased in 2016 by \$5K; that money has been allocated in the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 budgets to capacity building, education and marketing, based on the Arts and Culture Plan. If all the \$5K is not spent, the remainder goes back to grants allocations.
- The former President of the BOA was the aldermanic liaison for the Commission and was aware of the Commission's actions
- In 2018 the Commission formed an Arts Marketing Steering Committee (the chair of the BOA Planning and Economic Development is a member of the committee); the committee met with the directors of Economic and Community Development and the Exec Director of the Nashua Area Planning Commission. All agreed to contract with Americans for the Arts to conduct an arts economic impact study in the Nashua area. City Arts Nashua is the fiscal agent.
- \$1700 is still needed to fund the project.

Recommendations:

- Short term, Arts Commission funds the Americans for the Arts Study
- Long term, clarify the role of the Arts Commission; amend the charter if necessary
- Review of the charter: the only language relative to grants: "The Commission may recommend to the City administration appropriate grants to apply for and assist other cultural organizations with grants and funding sources."

The Mayor stated that he did not remember making that statement, and accepted the recommendation that the Arts Commission should continue to fund the Americans for the Arts project, and other projects/items that are consistent with the Arts and Culture Plan and included in the \$5K annual budget. He did not think it was necessary to amend the ordinance that sets the Commission's charter.

When asked his vision for the arts commission and where it should focus, he replied that he was depending on the Arts Commission to make those recommendations. He talked about the commission taking leadership on major arts projects. A lengthy, productive discussion followed that covered: an opportunity as NH's most diverse community to expand the scope of the Multicultural Festival to feature food, dance and music; bringing in a well-known artist to do something like either a "Burning Man" sculpture or a "Win Wall - Winwood" mural that would draw visitors to see it; sponsoring the state wide school music festival when the new performing arts center opens; Nashua participating in Poetry Out Loud; a dance festival; updating the Arts and Culture Plan with input from the arts community. Also discussed - commissioners should be able to attend most meetings, represent the commission at community arts events and participate in at least one of the commission's work groups.

### **WORKSHOP WORK GROUP REPORT**

The annual Collaborative Arts Workshop is set for Thursday, June 27 at 5:30 pm in the performance room at the Nashua Community Music School. A light supper will be served; from 6:00 to 7:00 pm information will be gathered from the arts organizations for the annual arts events calendar. From 7:00 to 8:00 the Commission will hold an input session for updating the Arts and Culture Plan, due in 2020. All members of arts community are welcome to participate in the input session, which will be facilitated by Ginnie Lupi, Director of the NH State Council on the Arts.