

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2024

12 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Reid, Harrington, B. Richardson, Mercado, Gaspar, Rafferty and Ford

Commissioners Absent:

Percival

Staff Present:

Donovan, Hull, Perlick, Juettemeyer, Nilo and Stokke

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

The April 11, 2024, meeting of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Vice President Reid in Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and via Microsoft Teams. Rafferty entered at 12:11.

Item 2: Member Update

Stacey Donovan announced that C. A. Richardson had resigned to prevent a conflict of interest between her role as Executive Director of The Arts Centered and her role on the Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission. Donovan read her resignation letter.

Donovan introduced the newest Commissioner, Ricky Gaspar.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mercado, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to adopt the minutes from March 14, 2024.

Members

Brad Richardson
President

Linda Reid
Vice President

Beth Harrington
Julie Mercado
Ricky Gaspar
Lee Rafferty
Vacant
Rebekah Percival
Russell Ford, CCAC

**Parks, Recreation and
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Department**

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Item 4: Historic Preservation Commission Update

Jan Bader, Historic Preservation Commission member, gave a workshop on the Historic Preservation Commission (“HPC”). Bader gave an overview of the preservation program, the historic register nomination process, and the advantages of listing historical sites on the register. Bader highlighted some of the grant opportunities available through the HPC and encouraged staff to bring an update on the Arts Hub implementation to the HPC for discussion.

Item 5: Election of President, Secretary/Treasurer

Hull described the duties of President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, and approved unanimously to appoint Harrington to Secretary/Treasurer.

Motion by Mercado, seconded by Harrington, and approved unanimously to appoint B. Richardson to President.

Item 6: Appointment of Application Subcommittee

Hull described the appointment process to fill C. A. Richardson’s seat. The application will be posted in mid-April. Previous applicants will be able to opt-in for consideration without reapplying. A subcommittee of the commission will review the applications and make a recommendation to the full commission at the June meeting.

Mercado, Reid, and Ford volunteered for the subcommittee.

Item 7: Grant Program Update

Hull provided the following updates on the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Program:

- The recent round of applications just closed. 31 applications were received, totaling \$275,000 in requests. (Last year the program received 20 applications totaling \$168,000.)
- The expanded outreach resulted in 18 new organizations/artists applying for funding this year.
- Donovan will request \$25,000 from the \$125,000 budget allotment to go towards performers at the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival.
- Hull reviewed the applications and sent feedback on some applications with errors or missing information. Applicants have until April 19th for optional corrections. Commissioners will have from April 19 so Sunday May 5th to complete the evaluations of the applications.
- The Commission will make their recommendations at the May board meeting and the proposal will go to Council on June 3.
- The May board meeting will need to be rescheduled to avoid a conflict with the Parks Foundation annual luncheon. The proposed date is TBD.

Item 8: Creative Vitality Index Update

Donovan gave an update on the Creative Vitality Index report. At the 2024 retreat, the Commissioners raised questions about the report and other Community Indicators identified in the City’s 2023-2029 Strategic Plan. Staff is meeting with Annette Roth at ArtsWA and with the City’s performance analyst to look into the NAICS codes in more depth to make sure that that right codes and the right geographies are used to compare data year over year.

B. Richardson suggested adding their Museums Connect Coordinator to participate in the meeting to ensure that heritage organizations are represented.

Item 9: Cultural Services Report

Donovan gave the following updates:

- Tower Mall Mural Panels: First Forty Feet is coordinating the design and construction of mural panels to go on the fence at Tower Mall. The design of the first round of panels should be finalized and ready for paint by the beginning of May. Future phases could include a call for artists for additional panels.
- The applications for stages at the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival have closed. They received 70 applications for the music stage and 14 applications for the dance stage. The selection committees are in place and vendor/artist in the park applications are still open. Donovan will give an in-depth presentation on the festival in June.
- Occupancy levels for the Arts Hub building have been established and some renovations are underway. The Arts Centered will be managing the space rental process.

Item 10: Cultural Access Update

Reid gave the following updates:

- B. Richardson and Reid are working with other community members to plan an approach to Cultural Access funding in Clark County.
- InspireWA will be giving a presentation at the Clark County History Museum on May 1 to discuss Cultural Access and other opportunities from the most recent legislative session.

Item 11: Clark County Art Commission Update

Ford provided an update from Artstra and a reminder about an optional raku workshop for the Commissioners.

Item 12: Public Comment

None presented.

Item 13: Commissioner Update and New Business

Commissioners shared updates on their personal projects and current sources of inspiration. B. Richardson mentioned there is talk of bringing the Lucky Lager sign back to Vancouver and finding a location for prominent display. Reid mentioned casts of petroglyphs created by Jim Hansen that are currently in storage at the Maryhill Museum, asking if there might be a better use for them at the Waterfront or Tower Mall. B. Richardson acknowledged the need to capture Hansen's story as a distinguished local artist.

Adjourned

This meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.