

Columbia City Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2023

I. Call to order

Commission Chair Romano called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia City Arts Commission (CCAC) at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, in the Common Council Chambers of Columbia City Hall, Columbia City, Indiana.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Becky Walter (member); Greg Hockemeyer (member); Kay Fleck (member); Mike Thomas (member); Jennifer Romano (member); Doug Egolf (member); and Chip Hill (staff). Guests Niki Keister (Columbia City Connect) and Ashley Buckles (Mayor's Office) also attended.

III. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Kay Fleck moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2023, as presented, seconded by Becky Walter, and approved by voice vote.

IV. Open issues

- Logo Designs – Members reported most social media support for a particular logo submitted by Jennifer Romano (attached hereto). Greg Hockemeyer moved to adopt that design as the primary branding logo for the CCAC, seconded by Becky Walter and passed by voice vote.
- Grant Opportunities – Chip Hill suggested the group consider randomly-located graphic art utilizing items of city infrastructure, like painting bubbles or fish near storm drains. This suggestion and the projects the guests suggested (below) were tentatively designated as the subjects of a grant request to be submitted to the Whitley County Community Foundation. Chairman Romano directed Kay Fleck to shepherd any such application process on behalf of the CCAC. Chip Hill agreed to seek City permission for the proposed street art.
- Arts Festival(s) – Guests presented festival opportunities for the CCAC, partnering with their respective groups.
 - Ashley Buckles informed the membership of the City's intention to host various "Summer in the City" events downtown on Saturdays during the Summer, offering activities for kids. While still fluid, scheduling the events will avoid weekends of Old Settlers' and the County Fair. The Mayor's Office hopes the CCAC will adopt the interactive "Sample the Arts" event proposed as part of the series. Members were amenable to the suggestion and will consider possible dates. Ms. Buckles agreed to post a survey online to assist in selecting a date. The event would be scheduled on a Saturday morning.
 - Niki Keister shared plans for Columbia City Connect's "Third Thursday" event series for May, June, and July from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Hopes are for the May 18, 2023, event to be an "art crawl" featuring local high school artists. Ms. Keister asked the CCAC to partner with her group for the June 15 and July 20 events "Activate the Alleys," featuring the Thomas R. Marshall Plaza, Ohki Alley, and

the limited access alley east of the county office building. The proposal is for the CCAC to partner by arranging visual art activities in the county building alley. (The Marshall Plaza will feature poetry and prose activities with the Peabody Public Library, and Ohki Alley will feature “Kari-Ohki” music with help from the local high school musicians.) The membership briefly discussed what such an event might look like touching upon individual booths, temporary tattoos, screen printing demonstrations, etc.

- The members agreed by acclamation to partner with the groups as proposed. Chairman Romano asked Becky Walter, Kay Fleck, and Doug Egolf to serve on an ad-hoc committee to develop plans for the three events.
- Jennifer Romano asked the membership to email her with proposed entries for the inventory of creatives. She will be creating a digital spreadsheet with the information.

V. New business

- Becky Walter shared dates of upcoming local theater events.
 - A Columbia City Fine Arts Department production of “Peter and the Starcatcher” at Columbia City High School on April 21 & 22, 2023, at 7:30 pm.
 - A Whitley Arts Partnership production of “Steel Magnolias” at the Eagle Glen Event Center on May 19 & 20, 2023, at 6:30 pm.
 - A Youtheatre production of “Sponge Bob SquarePants” at Columbia City High School, June 12-16, 2023.
- The group discussed the extent and value of the artwork at the Peabody Public Library.

VI. Adjournment

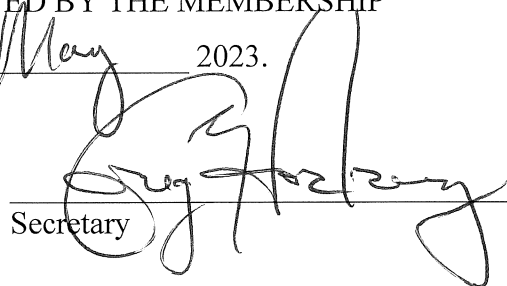
Greg Hockemeyer moved to adjourn, seconded by Becky Walter, and passed by voice vote at 5:59 p.m.

MARCH 7, 2023, MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

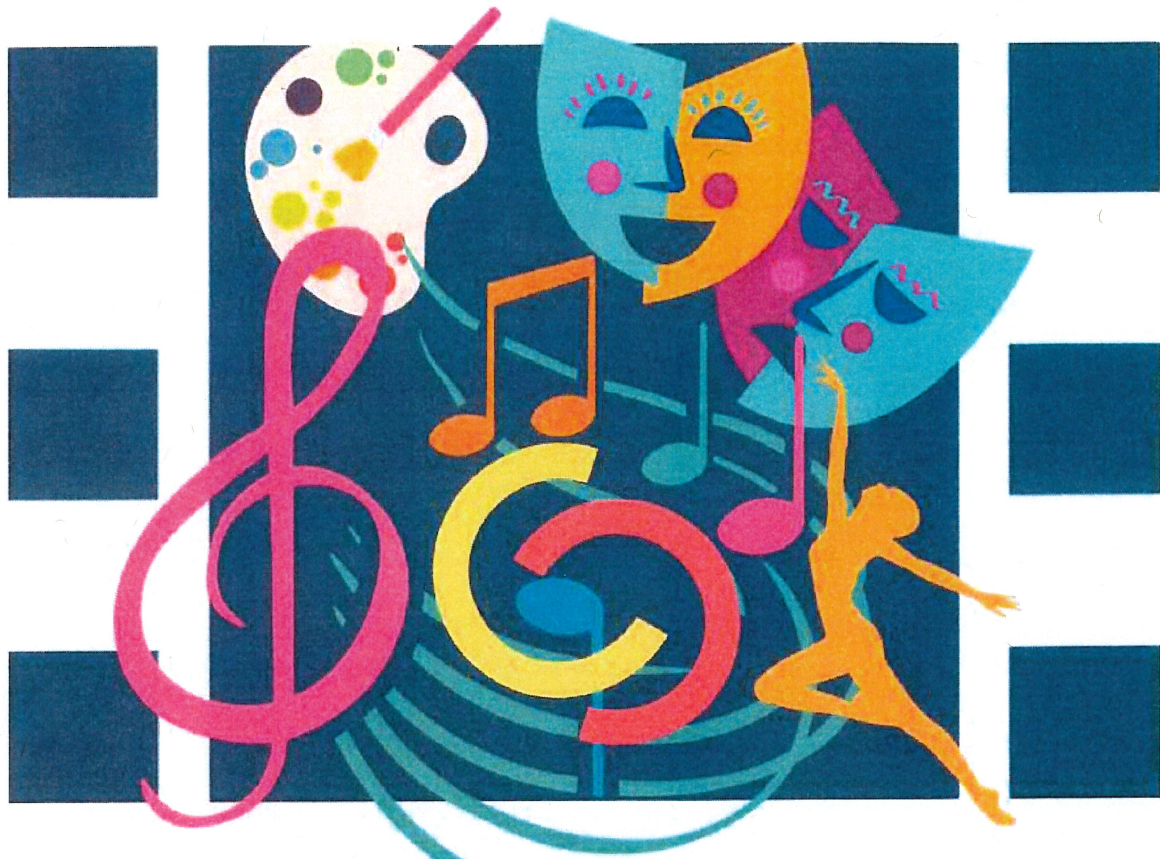
THIS 2ND DAY OF May 2023.



Presiding Officer



Secretary



**COLUMBIA CITY
ARTS COMMISSION**