

Columbia City Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024

I. Call to order

Commission Chair Romano called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia City Arts Commission (CCAC) at 5:06 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, in the Common Council Chambers of Columbia City Hall, Columbia City, Indiana.

II. Roll call

The following people were present: Doug Egolf (member), Greg Hockemeyer (member), Kay Fleck (member), April Frazier (member), and Jennifer Romano (member). Members Becky Walter and Mike Thomas were not present. Chip Hill (staff), Aaron Mathieu (guest), and Niki Keister (guest) also attended.

III. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Kay Fleck moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 2, 2024, as presented, seconded by April Frazier, and approved by voice vote.

IV. Open issues

- Annual Report – Becky Walter and April Frazier are presenting to the Common Council during its February 13, 2024, meeting. Jennifer Romano plans to give a snapshot of activity for the Mayor and may offer that information at the upcoming City Retreat.
- IAC Grant (Underserved Youth Project) –
 - Kay Fleck, Becky Walter, and April Frazier met and reached out to Park Terrace, YMCA, Mission 25 regarding transportation and participation in the proposed summer day camp tentatively scheduled for the last week in June, Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am, with a show on Friday. The group will continue efforts to contact Trail Ridge Apartments and the City’s mobile home parks near downtown. Whitley County Transport would assist in transporting up to 14 students at a daily cost of \$45.
 - Kay Fleck clarified that this year’s program would be without grant funding and less ambitious than anticipated by the IAC grant request. Kay sought input on grant-related matters, which led to a general discussion including:
 - How do we advertise to prospective participant families and recruit teachers? April Frazier shared the method to get flyers for prospective participants approved for distribution through Whitley County Consolidated Schools (WCCS).
 - How to reach out to the Retired Art Teachers organization.
 - April Frazier suggested ensuring the registration process includes an “in-person” opportunity to capture households needing guidance because of a lack of online access or personal impairments. Kay had spoken with Dr. Sue Corbin of WCCS about assisting participants with impairments, as well.
 - Kay noted the application requirement for budget figures and that we need input from potential teachers regarding stipend amounts.

- Historical Museum Collaboration -- Aaron Mathieu, Director of the Whitley County Historical Museum, highlighted art-related activities and plans, including:
 - The Museum’s effort to enlist school students in decorating.
 - Possible production of comic books featuring “local legends.”
 - Making the Museum’s visual art collection available with the Artists Studio Tour on September 7, 2024.
 - The desire to showcase local artists during May or June and, possibly, conduct workshops with artists. He noted that cartoonist Bob Lang was already on board.
 - Doug Egolf moved to have the Commission collaborate with the Museum in its 2024 arts programs, seconded by April Frazier and approved by voice vote.

V. New business

- Niki Keister of Columbia City Connect had several requests of the Commission, including:
 - Asking the Commission to take over the Third Thursday (Activate Alleys) events in May, June, and July. *(Tabled by acclamation.)* She and Chip Hill clarified that Columbia City Connect would no longer sponsor the Thursday evening program.
 - Seeking Commission booth participation in the “Opening Day” First Fridays event on May 3, 2024. Doug Egolf moved to participate, seconded by April Frazier, and approved by voice vote.
 - Proposing Commission support for the August 2nd First Friday program with a round-robin activity in which various artists contribute, in turn, to several canvases. Specifically, she wants the Commission to assist in providing a list of potential participants. April Frazier moved to participate, seconded by Doug Egolf, and approved by voice vote.
- Jennifer Romano noted the City’s desire to have the Commission, again, participate in a Taste of the Arts event in conjunction with a Saturday Farmers Market. Given the modest participation in last year's event, the group discussed moving the event from August to a different date. April Frazier moved to participate, seconded by Doug Egolf, and passed by voice vote (with opposition).
- Greg Hockemeyer shared Becky Walter’s request that the Commission consider hiring a consultant to review the mission statement and goals, noting that Jan Boggs or Renata Robinson would be qualified to perform such duties. The group noted the importance of seeking a broader consultant candidate pool. *(Tabled by acclamation.)*

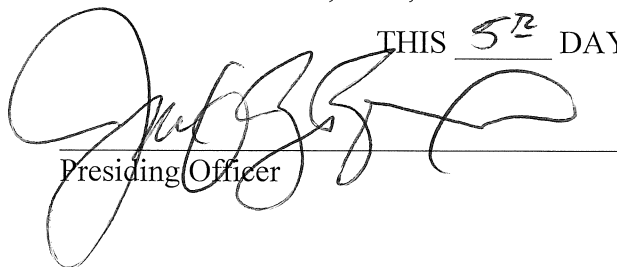
VI. Adjournment

With the agenda completed, Jennifer Romano adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 5, 2024, @ 5:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 6, 2024, MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

THIS 5th DAY OF March 2024.



 Presiding Officer



 Secretary