

Columbia City Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

I. Call to order

Commission Chair Romano called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia City Arts Commission (CCAC) at 5:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, in the Common Council Chambers of Columbia City Hall, Columbia City, Indiana.

II. Roll call

The following people were present: Becky Walter (member), Greg Hockemeyer (member), Mike Thomas (member), April Frazier (member), and Jennifer Romano (member). Member Kay Fleck attended via telephone. Member Doug Egolf was not present.

III. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Becky Walter moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 5, 2023, as presented, seconded by April Frazier, and approved by voice vote.

IV. Open issues

- Biennial Officer Election – The Commissioners previously nominated the current officers to continue to serve in their respective positions in the future. Greg Hockemeyer moved to close nominations and elect the previously nominated candidates by acclamation, seconded by Becky Walter and unanimously approved. Officers elected are Jennifer Romano as Chair, Kay Fleck as Vice-Chair, and Greg Hockemeyer as Secretary.
- Annual Report – Greg Hockemeyer shared his digest of CCAC activities in 2023 with the group, appended hereto. Becky Walter agreed to present the annual report to the Common Council, with Jennifer Romano to arrange the date on the Council agenda.
- Underserved Youth Project – Kay Fleck shared additional information regarding the Indiana Arts Commission grant process, including the October disbursement date. Greg Hockemeyer shared information from the Peabody Public Library’s recent IAC grant. The members agreed to sponsor a smaller version of the event for the Summer of 2024 while requesting the IAC grant by the March 2024 deadline for a broader event in 2025. The group agreed to table the matter until the next meeting and confirmed task assignments to move the process forward:
 - Jennifer Romano is to contact the Retired Art Teachers,
 - Kay Fleck is to reach out to Whitley County Transport,
 - Mike Thomas will coordinate with TROY and Mary Raber schools, and
 - April Frazier will obtain information from HeadStart, Trail Ridge Apartments, and Little Turtle Elementary.

V. New business

- Jennifer Romano noted her contact with Aaron Mathieu of the Whitley County Historical Museum. In May of this year, the Museum plans to host an Art Show featuring its collection of local artists’ work and a workshop targeted at young people.

- Becky Walter suggested the Commission consider organizing performing artists for a community New Year's Eve celebration similar to the one she had attended in Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- Jennifer Romano shared with the group the video produced in conjunction with last Fall's Artists Studio Tour.


VI. Adjournment

Greg Hockemeyer moved to adjourn, seconded by Becky Walter, and passed by voice vote at 6:03 p.m.

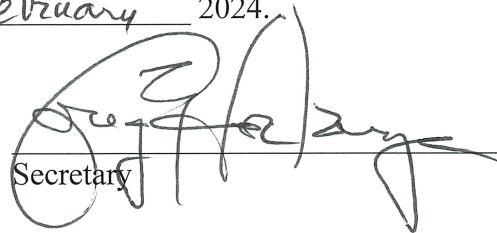
NEXT REGULAR MEETING: FEBRUARY 6, 2024, @ 5:00 P.M.

JANUARY 2, 2024, MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

THIS 6th DAY OF February 2024.



Presiding Officer



Secretary

2023 DIGEST

January 2023 - The inaugural Commission (CCAC) meeting found members electing officers and setting a meeting schedule of 5:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in Columbia City Common Council Chambers. The group identified the need for a logo for branding and public art events.

February 2023 - The Commission established a social media presence and identified candidates for community partnerships initially focused on Columbia City Connect and its "Third Thursdays" project. The group sought input from the public from among logo options developed by members. The group identified the need for an inventory of local creative human assets.

March 2023 - Following input from social media, the membership selected a logo for the Commission. The group decided to pursue a street mural project. The members heard options for participating in Thursday "Third Thursday" events in June and July and a Saturday "Summer in the City" event, allowing the public to sample the arts.

May 2023 - Grant funds from the Whitley County Community Foundation (WCCF) are sought to assist in four planned events: Makers Space (June), Art in the Alley (July), Sample the Arts (July), and Artists Studio Tour (September). Having received the City's blessing, the Commissioners identified possible street mural locations.

June 2023 - The CCAC organized a Makers Space installation in the alley east of the County Building as part of Columbia City Connect's Third Thursday event on June 15. The Commission obtained funding from the WCCF to help fund events. Commission Member Doug Egolf "unveiled" the first street mural at the south entrance to Ohki Alley in time for Old Settlers Days - a Zen waterscape.

July 2023 - Art in the Alley and Sample the Arts events occurred. Work began on the second street mural - a portrait of Thomas R. Marshall (in the food style of Renaissance artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo) on the curb at the northeast corner of Chauncey and Van Buren Streets.

September 2023 - Members authorized funds to establish a web page for the CCAC. The first Artists Studio Tour occurred at various locations across the City and County. The event is memorialized in a video production.

October 2023 - The next Artists Studio Tour date is September 7, 2024. CCAC coordinates with CC Connect for Art Night at the Clugston.

November 2023 - The group dedicates funds to remove cost barriers from participating in the Whitley Arts Partnership's Youtheatre program.

December 2023 - Christmas Art Market, organized by the CCAC at Chapman's, encourages purchasing locally produced holiday gifts. The members firm up possible partners for a summer art "camp" aimed at Columbia City youth in hopes of partnering with other local organizations.