

City of Saratoga Springs ARTS COMMISSION



MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Location: Saratoga Arts, 320 Broadway

Present: Sue Kessler (Chair), Ian Berry, Belinda Colon, Matt Hurff, Joel Reed, Peter Kodogiannis, Devra Cohen-Tigor, Aili Lopez, Ria Curley

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm.

Governance:

- Sue introduced new members Elaina Richardson, Lisa Kolosek, and Aili Lopez. Aili was the only new member present, and spoke about her work, background, and goals. Elaina and Lisa will be invited to speak at the top of the next meeting.

General:

- Update on the ArtScape project: The Mayor continues to support the concept of the ArtScape, but has decided at this time to focus on other priorities for the City, and has asked the Arts Commission to resume focus on our original goals for the year: ongoing policy / advising for new projects, creating an "Arts Plan" for the City beginning with a Vision Statement, exploring a marketing piece that showcases local arts in an inclusive way (either a printed brochure or possibly a video), and finding ways to connect and collaborate with Saratoga's 'arts stakeholders' in order to strengthen our local arts scene.
- There is already a video in production that is showcasing some of Saratoga's arts offerings. Ian will find out more about it. Perhaps we can be involved in this video. If not, we will contact Tourism to see if we can produce a different video.

- Joel mentioned a scheduled event at Saratoga Arts that will take place on October 17th. It's possible this event could serve as a gathering for 'arts stakeholders', and an opportunity for them to weigh in on the "Arts Plan" / Vision Statement from the vantage points of their own institutions. Joel will let us know more about the event as it gets closer, and whether he thinks it might be fit for our involvement.
- We will dedicate the next meeting to starting a Vision Statement. In order to prepare, **all Commission members have been tasked with 'homework' between now and the next meeting: please find 2 arts plans / vision statements from other cities** that you feel could serve as relevant inspiration in creating our own statement for Saratoga Springs. **Please put your findings into [this Google Drive](#)** so everyone can read them in advance of the meeting.
- I also suggest we re-visit our Mission Statement (below) as it relates to a Vision Statement:

The Arts Commission works to foster and advance art and culture in Saratoga Springs by promoting the city as a premier arts destination, guiding city policy for artistic and cultural growth, and working in close cooperation with the community, thereby enriching and enhancing both the local economy and the quality of life in our city.

At 6:35pm, Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned. Matt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is on November 12, 2019

*All meetings are on Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm at Saratoga Arts