

## Committee for Art and Culture

### September 11, 2024 Meeting Notes

**Present:** Peggy Saporito, Ginny Flowers, Sam Lock, Molly Vaughan, Paige Griffin, Kelly Wyatt

**Not Present:** Jeremy Russell, Shelli Gates, Kerry Oaksmith Sanders

Staff provided a recap of summer programming, market activity, and upcoming fall and holiday events.

#### Summer Programming Recap

Staff reported strong participation across most summer programs:

- Yoga reached its highest participation levels of the season, averaging approximately 45 participants per session. Attendance included a wide range of participants, including families, seniors, and pets. Staff is exploring wireless microphone options to better support larger gatherings.
- Fitness Fridays, now in its second year, averaged approximately 15–18 participants per session. The program is sponsored by Tortuga's Lie and continues to grow.
- Summer Concert Series attendance remained steady, generally ranging from 180–225 participants. The July 4 *Soul One* concert exceeded 300 attendees. One scheduled band cancelled due to illness, and a substitute band was secured.
- Movie Nights averaged attendance in the 80-person range. The most recent showing of *Twister* drew approximately 70 attendees. An additional movie night is planned for October, featuring *The Goonies* in partnership with the Outer Banks Hospital.

#### Family and Youth Programming

Staff provided an update on children's programming:

- Family Fun Nights were held four times during the season. While this was the second year of the program, staff noted challenges related to timing, heat, and competing evening schedules. The committee discussed potential adjustments, including alternative times of day.
- Kids Night continues to be successful, drawing over 400 attendees and including participation from Police and Fire departments. Staff noted the need to brainstorm additional youth-focused activities.

- Staff observed that rescheduled events, such as the Riptide program, drew higher attendance and broader participation, including adults.

### **Dowdy Park Farmers Market Recap**

Staff reported that the Farmers Market had a strong season overall, with most vendors performing well despite broader economic conditions. A small number of vendors experienced lower sales, and staff is meeting individually with those vendors to gather feedback and determine potential improvements. Staff noted that vendor performance is tracked collectively rather than individually, and vendors are not required to formally report earnings.

### **Holiday Markets – Planning and Process**

Staff provided a detailed overview of changes to the Holiday Market application and selection process, following challenges experienced the previous year.

- Participation will be limited to 50 vendors per market.
- Scheduled Holiday Markets:
  - Saturday, November 9 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
  - Saturday, November 30 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
  - Thursday, December 5 (4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)
  - Saturday, December 14 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- The application window will open October 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Updated requirements include:
  - Perishable goods sourced within a 75-mile radius.
  - Crafted goods sourced within a 50-mile radius.
  - Preference given to vendors requesting participation in all four markets.
  - At least 75% of products must be made by the vendor.
  - A valid North Carolina Tax ID number is required.
- Hard copy applications will be made available for applicants without computer access and will be time-stamped upon receipt.

After applications close, staff will remove any applicants who do not meet eligibility requirements. Preference will be given to vendors participating in all four markets, with remaining slots filled based on application time stamp.

Committee members emphasized the importance of vendor commitment to the overall success and integrity of the Holiday Markets and encouraged participation even when individual sales vary.

### **Fall and Holiday Events**

- Yoga will continue through the end of October.
- Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa Visit is planned for November 30, with activities beginning around 4:30–5:00 p.m.
- Candy Cane Hunt is scheduled for December 11. Staff noted the need for volunteer assistance with event setup. Sam Lock will serve as emcee and assist with event coordination.

### **Public Art and Creative Projects**

- Skate Park Mural: Artist Chris Wheeler has begun work by priming the concrete, with painting anticipated in the coming weeks. A community celebration is planned following completion, potentially including a pizza event and opportunities for children to meet the artist and sign the mural wall.
- Barnes Street Loom: Materials have been secured, with installation anticipated to begin in October.
- Crosswalk Art Project: Students are refining the final design. Staff will confirm paint purchases, supplies, and scheduling. The project is anticipated to occur on a Saturday in October, with consideration given to the October 12 holiday weekend.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Committee for Art and Culture meeting is scheduled tentatively for November 13, 2024 (if needed).