

## **Committee for Art and Culture**

### **November 13, 2024 Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Jeremy Russell, Kerry Oaksmith Sanders, Molly Vaughan, Paige Griffin, Kelly Wyatt

Staff provided updates on recent events, upcoming programming, and ongoing projects.

#### **Dowdy Park Holiday Market**

Staff reported that the Dowdy Park Holiday Market held the previous Saturday was very successful, with strong attendance and positive vendor sales. This marked the first Holiday Market of the season. The next Holiday Market is scheduled for November 30, 2024.

#### **Crosswalk Art Project**

Staff confirmed that the crosswalk painting is scheduled for Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Paige Griffin has received the project needs list.

The committee discussed a phased approach:

- The first Saturday will focus on outlining the design and allowing participants to become comfortable with timing and materials.
- Community participation may be expanded during a second Saturday session in future efforts.

#### **Skate Park Mural and Community Event**

Staff provided an update on the Skate Park mural project. A Skate Park Party is planned from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., during which children will be invited to paint the wall under the guidance of artist Chris Wheeler.

Jeremy Russell noted concerns regarding weed growth in the flower beds near the corner of the skate park. Staff will coordinate with Public Services as needed.

#### **Holiday Events**

- **Tree Lighting:** Scheduled for November 30. Front Porch will donate hot chocolate, and Kelly Wyatt will continue providing cider.
- **Candy Cane Hunt:** Staff will coordinate with Peggy Saporito regarding assistance with hiding candy canes.

#### **Barnes Street Nature Loom Project Update**

Staff reported that no progress has been made on the Barnes Street project. The previously discussed algae-based material developed with CSI did not perform as expected and is not suitable for the nature loom concept.

### **Winter Markets and Staffing**

Staff noted that Winter Markets are planned for January through April. Paige Griffin shared that she anticipates being out of the country during March, and staff coverage will be arranged during that time.

A new vendor, an Alaskan fisherman operating out of Columbia, North Carolina, participated successfully and is expected to continue as a vendor.

### **Additional Updates**

- **Holiday Decorating Contest:** Staff confirmed the contest will not be held this year due to declining participation over the past three years.
- **Dowdy Park Field Use:** Jeremy Russell asked about potential plans for the westernmost field near U.S. 158, which is often used for soccer goals that are frequently relocated.
- **Special Olympics:** Special Olympics participants continue to use Dowdy Park every Wednesday to prepare for Bocce Ball tournaments, traveling from Elizabeth City.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Committee for Art and Culture meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2025.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.