

Nags Head Committee for Arts and Culture Meeting

October 16, 2017 Minutes

Nags Head Town Hall; Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Ben Cahoon, Lauren Evans, Leslie Erickson, Kerry Oaksmith, Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman and Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt.

Public Present: None.

Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman opened the meeting and thanked everyone in attendance.

By consensus the committee approved the minutes of the July 17th, August 21st and September 18th meetings.

Committee member Ben Cahoon shared with the entire committee a magazine he had read that included an article on the art revival occurring in Kinston, NC.

Mr. Garman informed the committee that he had been in contact with Julian Kelly with regard to being awarded funding for the construction and installation of the Dowdy Park Entryway feature, recently selected by the committee members. Mr. Garman stated that Ms. Kelly indicated that the Kelly Family Foundation and Don and Catherine Bryan Cultural Series had not met as a group to date however they would be meeting that week and a response would be forthcoming.

The committee then discussed the Art Mast project and Mr. Garman noted that we were in receipt of four 2 x 8 dibond panels and they were available for Ben Cahoon and Kerry Oaksmith to take and do a test panel as previously discussed. It was noted that staff work on assessing the structural integrity of the existing posts to see if they were in good condition and capable of carrying the masts. The committee also discussed potential ways to fasten the masts to the frames. The committee was in agreement that as the process moved forward it should be documented and an internal brief be written as guidance for potential future artists interested in painting a mast. It was determined that once the details were fine-tuned a core group of committee members should be identified to solicit artists and work with the property owners to have the masts installed. The committee discussed potential options on getting the masts out into the community, one of which was to display the masts at Dowdy Park, hold an reception/auction of sorts and should any piece not be selected it would be placed on Town property as public art. The committee also discussed an option of pre-selling the masts, having the artist and buyer work in tandem to create a commissioned piece. The committee discussed both ideas at length but did not come to resolution on how to highlight and distribute the art work once completed.

The committee continued discussion on a possible Farmers Market to be held at Dowdy Park. Planning Staff updated the committee on a very informative phone conversation they had with Molly Vaughn, the Market Manager for the Durham Farmers Market. It was noted that if this farmers market came to

fruition the Town in no way wanted to compete with any surrounding markets. Lauren Evans noted that she had numerous friends and acquaintances who are involved in farmers markets and art shows and it was their recommendation that we consider having our market on a Wednesday or Thursday. They felt this would greatly appeal to locals and offer the tourists something towards the end of their vacation when they are “beached-out”. Leslie Erickson noted that it really seemed this would be good to highlight and provide for the enjoyment of the locals knowing that it would be great for tourists as well. Lauren indicated that she knew of several vendors who would be interested in attending a market in Nags Head. Leslie indicated that she would try to reach out to the community to see if someone would be interested in supplying fresh flowers. Staff noted that it would be ideal to have a short-list of “producers” either growing and selling their own fruits and vegetables or re-selling from local farmers. Staff indicated they would attempt to locate some potential interested farmers. The committee discussed the option to have entertainment at the market; Leslie Erickson noted that she thought it would be nice to have children’s groups available occasionally. The committee wrapped up discussion of the farmers market and noted that each committee member should give some thought to who and what they would envision in the stalls of the market, to brainstorm how it should look and feel and come back to the next meeting with some ideas.

Lauren let the committee know that on November 25th, Small Business Saturday, there would be several vendors set up behind Seagreen Gallery and Surfin’ Spoon and invited everyone to drop in.

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.