

## **Nags Head Committee for Arts and Culture**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 20, 2019, 10:30 am**

#### **Nags Head Town Hall, Conference Room**

Committee Members Present: Peggy Saporito, Lauren Evans, Leslie Erickson, Samantha Brown, Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman, Planning Director Michael Zehner, Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt and Event Coordinator Paige Griffin.

Public Present: Mayor Ben Cahoon.

Planning staff thanked those in members in attendance and opened the meeting.

Mayor Ben Cahoon was present to discuss with the Art and Culture Committee a conversation that he had recently had with Mrs. Pat Eure. Mrs. Eure stated she would very much like to operate the Ghost Fleet Museum for as long as she could but that their children did not have an interest in continuing history of the museum. She wanted to explore any available options with the Town as she thought the Town might value its history. It to be asset. No commitment or direction was given but a brief conversation was had about maintaining the Ghost Fleet Museum as it is an asset to the Town, possibly opening up it for art installations or shows, or for educational opportunities noting that it truly is an anchor for the Gallery Row District. It was noted that we may want to incorporate Chris Sawin with the Dare County Arts Council into the conversation as it relates to non-profits, operating expenses and potential grant opportunities. Mayor Cahoon did give direction to the committee to proceed with these ideas but to be aware that was option and possible brainstorm opportunities. Peggy Saporito noted the building did need some improvements, but that the upstairs unit could function as an apartment/resident artist. Event Coordinator Paige Griffin noted her experience with Arts of Albemarle and the renovation of the Chesson building. The committee discussed determining if there was any opportunities for the Ghost Fleet Gallery to be given some type of landmark status given its history. Committee member Lauren Evans noted that the building often floods and any considerations towards renovations may want to include elevating the structure out of the flood hazard area. The committee agreed that the conversation about the Gallery should continue and that more time could be devoted to this in the Fall. Paige noted that she would begin to investigate possible grant opportunities during this time.

Michael Zehner, Planning Director, briefly discussed with the committee an upcoming meeting at the Dream Center in which the committee was all invited to attend. As the property owner, SAGA Construction was interested in meeting with various groups and organizations to explore the possibility of creating a community gathering space or performing arts center. It was noted that something of this nature would rejuvenate the Gallery Row area. It was noted that organizations invited to attend the brainstorming session included the Town of Nags Head and the Art and Culture Committee, the Dare County Arts Council, College of the Albemarle and others. Committee member Leslie Erickson noted

that having an auditorium or flex space on the beach would be very beneficial to many local art and theater groups that currently have no permanent meeting space.

Kelly Wyatt provided an update on the Art Mast Project noting that James Melvin, Rob Snyder and Taylor Williams would be asked to participate and provided a stipend of \$500. The committee discussed the process for selecting artists for these panels and how to determine the location of the mast. The majority of the committee felt that we should, in a sense, commission each panel, working with the artist on a design and then determining the location of the mast at that point. It was suggested that the panels could take the place of the district signage throughout the Town. The panel being completed by James Melvin would be in honor of Glenn Eure and would be placed within the Gallery Row District. The location of Rob Snyder and Taylor Williams has yet to be determined.

The next Art and Culture Committee meeting was set for June 17, 2019.

With no additional items for discussion the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.