

Nags Head Committee for Arts and Culture

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020, 12noon - 1pm

Meeting held Remotely using ZOOM Meeting Platform

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

Public Present: None present.

Staff opened the meeting and thanked everyone for being willing to participate remotely in this unprecedented time. It was the consensus of the committee to consider the adoption of the previous month's meetings at their upcoming May 2020 meeting.

Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt and Event Coordinator, Paige Griffin provided an update to the committee on the status of the upcoming Dowdy Park Farmers Market. It was noted that at this time we would proceed with solicitation of applications as if the market would be held as planned, every Thursday in the months of July and August 2020. The Application to Sell and the Market Rules have been updated and will be made public via previous vendor contact list and social media between April 10th and April 13th. The deadline for applications to be received will be close of business on Wednesday, May 6th at which time staff will put the vendors in categories based by product and provide to committee members for review no later than Friday, May 8th. The Art and Culture Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 13th to make final selections on the 2020 Season of vendors. Committee member Lauren Evans inquired about the timeline for vendors to pay the application fee. It was noted that, in light of the Covid-19 uncertainty, no vendor will be expected to pay until there is more certainty that the market will proceed as planned. Event Coordinator Paige Griffin also noted that she had been in communication with instructors for the planned Yoga and Tai Chi fitness programs at Dowdy Park and everyone was comfortable waiting until May/June to determine when best to start given the circumstances.

The committee very briefly discussed what type of activity they would offer at the 2020 DCAC Artrageous Event. Even though the event has currently been postponed, in anticipation of it being rescheduled there was consensus to move forward with the ideas that committee member Peggy Saporito provided using popsicle sticks to make various fun things.

At the committees previous meeting there was discussion of possible locations within the Town to locate a large art piece donated to the Town by Tanger Outlet Mall. At this previous meeting the committee noted that Whalebone Park might be a good location. Since that meeting staff has been putting together a project for Harvey Tract Sound side Access and thought this piece might be better suited at this location. Staff explained that this is a sound side access where non-motorized watercraft

launch from frequently and given the water and sailboat theme in the art piece it would be fitting, maybe even incorporated into some signage. The committee agreed.

Staff provided a brief update on the Art Mast Project noting that Taylor Williams had posted some beautiful photos of her panel on her Instagram account. In continuing discussion of where to locate the art masts it was recommended that staff could provide a map for the committee to review and make recommendations on.

Committee members asked staff for an update on the discussion of seeking approval to permit one food truck at the Wednesday evening concerts this summer. Staff noted that the idea had been provided to the Board of Commissioners as part of the Art and Culture Committee presentation during the March meeting, but staff has not yet formalized a text amendment request for consideration. Event Coordinator, Paige Griffin noted that given the uncertainty of both the budget and social distancing requirements that may be in place this summer she would like to focus on seeking local bands for the Wednesday evening concerts. Should we be able to provide music this summer it will be key to provide community gathering spaces/opportunities and keeping the money local with local musical artists will be important.

The committee asked staff for any updates on the Beachcomber Museum and His Dream Center discussion items. Planning Director, Michael Zehner noted that he did not believe the building was listed for sale on MLS and that tours have ceased, and the collection is being cataloged. The committee encouraged staff to continue discussion of methods to save or preserve this museum with the Nags Head Board of Commissioners. Mr. Zehner also discussed the current status of His Dream Center with the committee, noting that currently the location is functioning most similarly to the "Real Estate Rental Management Facility" use however that use is not permitted in the C-2 Zoning District. Staff has been in touch with owners who is working to address some fire code concerns as well as seek the necessary text amendment to permit the use within the appropriate district. Mr. Zehner noted that at this time, the requirement for sprinkler protection of the structure appears to be the largest financial hurdle and that the owners are not opposed to continuing the idea of a Performing Arts space, but they would need funding as well as partnerships to make that transition.

The committee briefly discussed other Town properties and potential Art and Culture activities there including possible mural or painting at the YMCA Skatepark and potentially the dog park at Satterfield Landing. Committee members noted that local artist Red Dawn or Travis Fowler may be interested in working on an art piece of this nature. Staff noted that there will likely be some site improvements to the skatepark in the next year or so and that we would continue to discuss ideas and opportunities for this site.

In closing, the committee expressed their concerns over the current status regarding coronavirus but noted that when it is safe to do so it will be more important than ever to Shop Local and Support Local and that any opportunities with the Farmers Market, etc. we should promote such.

With no additional items for discussion the meeting adjourned at 1:20pm