

Nags Head Committee for Arts and Culture

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020, 12noon - 1pm

Nags Head Town Hall, Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Peggy Saporito, Kerry Sanders, Ginny Flowers, Leslie Erickson, Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt, Event Coordinator Paige Griffin and Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman

Public Present: None present.

Event Coordinator, Paige Griffin opened the meeting with an update on the upcoming Farmers Market Season. Paige reported that as of now the Town would be holding the market every Thursday through the months of July and August with the possibility of a June kick-off event and possible a Fall or Holiday Market, however that had not yet been determined. She noted that in speaking with some of the vendors there were mixed feelings about increase in market days from last year. Some of the vendors indicated that they would not be able to attend weekly just due to the product they provide and timing. Some of the farmers indicated that they could not commit to weekly attendance given that a rainy May or June could affect availability in July. Paige noted that the previous two years she taken great care to develop a map for the vendors based upon not only what they were selling but their personalities as well. With the increase frequency of markets and the potential for vendors not to come weekly a little extra effort would need to be made each market morning but she felt comfortable doing so. Paige indicated that she already had several ideas on how to craft the vendor map to help alleviate problems.

Paige informed the committee that in addition to the previous 50 vendors she had received inquiries from another 50 on how to apply to be a vendor. Should everyone apply again, the committee would have a tough selection process this year. The committee was in agreement to keep the number of vendors at or around 50 in total with an allowance for “drop-in” vendors as Paige could manage them. The committee agreed to keeping the same framework for fees, \$125 for the season or \$25 as a “drop-in” vendor. Paige noted that the Rules for the market would need to be revised this year to explicitly note that no CBD products or alcohol would be permitted due to the proximity of Dowdy Park to the Nags Head Elementary School.

Paige noted that we would continue to provide fitness opportunities at Dowdy Park through the season. Yoga would be overseen by committee member Kerry Sanders and would run May 19th – October 27th on Tuesday mornings beginning at 7:30am. Tai Chi would run June 3rd – August 26th on Wednesday mornings also beginning at 7:30am.

Paige noted that we would be offering a concert series again this season. There would be a musical performance every Wednesday beginning June 3rd running through August 19th. The music would be from 6pm to 8pm with a 90-minute set. She noted that she has a few openings so if anyone knows of any bands, they think would do well at the park to please send her their information.

The committee discussed the upcoming DCAC Artrageous Event coming up on May 9th. Peggy Saporito noted that she had a good idea for an activity and would email the committee the details. Ginny Flowers updated the committee that while Barry Lee would be providing the original artwork for the event he, unfortunately, would not be able to actually attend the event. The committee discussed any opportunities to use his original artwork in a broader sense to create t-shirts, posters, stickers, etc. for the Dowdy Park Season. Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman noted that any sales of products at the park would need to be processed through the Town's Finance Department. The town currently does not have the capability to do that, but he would discuss this further with Finance Officer, Amy Miller and report back.

Kelly Wyatt provided the committee with photographs of a large piece of art that was donated to the Town recently. The piece was made by school children and had been displayed at the Tanger Outlet Mall for some time. The town would like to incorporate the piece into the Town somewhere and the Art and Culture Committee had been asked to consider where might be a suitable location. The committee first thought the piece would weather well at the Barnes Street Park because it could be placed under the pavilion but upon further discussion the committee determined it would fit the environment more if placed on Whalebone Park. In talking more about Whalebone Park the committee noted that there are no shade structures, gazebo's or pavilions to offer relief from the sun at this park. Additionally, there are no restrooms easily accessible so, it may not be as attractive to parents with young kids for that reason. Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman made note of this and said he would explore some options.

With regard to the Art Mast Project, artist Taylor Williams had recently uploaded a photo of her art panel in progress onto Instagram. The committee members were very complimentary of her artwork and excited to have it as part of the Town. The committee briefly discussed possible locations for these art masts, a new idea was mentioned of keeping them condensed in one general vicinity so that they are all walkable. The committee was very favorable of this idea for placement.

Staff briefly discussed the idea of having areas within the Town where portions of the sidewalk or side streets could be painted with art. Staff noted that they would bring more information back on this in future meetings.

Staff had also mentioned that the committee may want to consider some art and culture opportunities/projects at the skatepark at the YMCA. The Town operates this skatepark and it might offer some unique art opportunities. Committee members recollected a teacher from Hatteras Island who headed up a contest with school age children to paint murals on surfaces within a skatepark. The committee wanted to continue discussing this opportunity.

Before closing the meeting, a few items were quickly mentioned for consideration. Ginny Flowers asked that the committee consider a Sea Glass Festival in the future. It was noted that we should provide hand sanitizer stations throughout the Farmers Market and to consider a separate yoga class from that offered on Tuesday mornings. Kerry Sanders mentioned a yoga instructor, Scott Lawler, who has a unique yoga method, committee members thought this would be a great offering as well.

With no additional items for discussion the meeting adjourned at 1:10pm