

Nags Head Committee for Arts and Culture

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021, 12noon - 1pm

Meeting held Remotely using ZOOM Meeting Platform

Committee Members Present: Peggy Saporito, Ginny Flowers, Samantha Brown, Bettye White, Leslie Erickson, Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt, Director of Planning & Development Michael Zehner, Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman and Event Coordinator Paige Griffin.

Public Present: None present.

Staff opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending remotely again this month.

Director of Planning & Development, Michael Zehner opened the meeting with discussing the current financials and budget information with the committee nothing that in FY 18 and 19 the budget was \$11K. This year prior to pandemic it was also 11k but was reduced to 5k due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus. Michael verified that this amount does not include the Event Coordinators salary. Michael noted that the original 5k the committee now has \$2,900 available. The majority of funds spent was a cost share for lights purchased for Dowdy Park and that the only materials purchased otherwise were for sanitation station and efforts during the Farmers Market. Michael noted that staff would ask the Finance Department how much money is available for the Event Coordinators salary to determine when she could start accumulating noticeable hours. Deputy Planning Director Andy Garman noted that he would anticipate the same level of funding for the committee into FY 21/22 knowing that there is still some uncertainty around gatherings for music, movies, fitness, etc. Paige Griffin noted that the majority of her time is spent in March and April going through the Farmers Market Application process, acceptance letters, communicating market rules and requirements, mapping the field prior to the market days and other activities. On market days, Paige noted that she puts in 7 – 12 hours/market.

Event Coordinator Paige Griffin updated the committee on a grant opportunity with the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau that she has been pursuing in hopes of having funding for additional tents, chairs and possibly holiday lighting.

Staff provided the committee with an update on the Art Mast Project. Staff had previously emailed committee members a photo of the mock banner we had received for the art panel itself. Andy Garman noted that all 4 banners have been ordered, they are double sided with pole pockets and will be mounted at the desired beach access locations by the Public Works department when they are received. Staff reminded committee members that the money allocated for the art mast project is separate from the money allocated for special events. It was the consensus of the committee that we continue the art mast project, selecting additional artists in the near future. Andy Garman noted that if the committee would like to seek additional artists for additional art panels, we will need to request additional money for this in the upcoming budget.

Staff reiterated that the committee should continue thinking about other opportunities throughout the Town and consider possibly completing a “mini” strategic plan over 5 years.

The committee noted upcoming opportunities as part of the Whalebone Park updates, providing artwork in the gazebo area at the Harvey Tract and opportunities for public art at the Skatepark. Event Coordinator Paige Griffin told the committee that often she hears people within the community ask for other opportunities outside of the Dowdy Park and that giving consideration to more activities at Whalebone Park, Town Park and the Dog Park should be taken into consideration.

Committee members sought updates from staff on the status of the Dream Center with regard to a Performing Arts space and the historical museum at the Mattie Midgette site. Staff informed the committee that on the workplan there were considerations for wayfinding signage, updating signage and possibly branding opportunities that the committee may wish to be involved in.

Andy Garman informed the committee that he and Public Works had recently conducted a walk-through of Dowdy Park and had identified some problems that need to be addressed: the benches have not held up well and the basketball and pickle ball courts are showing wear. Andy noted that providing a few disc-golf baskets was discussed at Dowdy Park originally and that more consideration should be given to that, perhaps while constructing the sidewalk as it would give older kids an activity.

After a good discussion, Staff reminded the committee members that we would plan on providing the Board of Commissioners an update of the previous season at their March 3rd regularly scheduled meeting. Staff noted that they would be working on staff report and power point presentation but would greatly appreciate the attendance and input from the committee members.

With no additional items for discussion the meeting adjourned at 1:25pm