

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Minutes of regular online meeting of the Stowe Arts & Culture Council

In attendance: Rachel Moore, Chair; Lynn Paparella, Vice Chair, Charlotte Maison-Kastner, Meghan Reichelt, Mort Butler, Shawn Kerivan, Sharon Harper, and Hope Sullivan, Clerk

Absent: Kelly Holt

Also, in attendance:

Tom Jackman, Stowe Director of Planning, Beth Liberman

Meeting was called to order at 9:04AM by Rachel Moore.

Item 1: Minutes, Updates and Reports

On a motion duly seconded the minutes of the Dec 1, 2020 meeting were approved with one recusal.

Rachel updated the group that she has edited the press release – and will send to Sharon and Tom.

Lynn updated that Stowe Performing Arts is starting to plan for a new season, with social distancing practices in place. Music in May is questionable.

Hope updated that Spruce Peak Performing Arts Centers attempts at in person events have had challenges. The next performance in the Winter Concert Series is scheduled for Jan 23, hoping to be able to have an in-person audience, will be streamed either way.

Sharon updated that she and Meghan have been discussing banners. Also reminded that SACC can be a member of SAA as part of Town of Stowe appropriation, Sharon will send the membership agreement.

Beth JCOGs participated in VT wide Hannukah party which was more of a talent show. Focused online though for education programs trying to figure out small groups. Stowe Jewish Film Festival planning in progress as well as a free virtual concert on January 28th.

Mort Butler updated about Stowe Community Church – over Christmas Taryn Noelle did a virtual Christmas pageant and a virtual Christmas celebration. Both up on their website. Not open now but did dress up for Christmas Eve service.

Charlotte updated on Stowe Free Library. It's closed to the public but offering curbside and phone service.

Shawn updated on Stowe Story Labs, planning an online writer's retreat. Still in a holding pattern regarding what things will look like in June for narrative labs and sidewalk film festival.

Rachel updated on Helen Day Art Center and process of changing their name to better reflect values of the organization. Closing the galleries until June, replacing the lights fixtures, and then re-opening with an exhibition by a Botswana-born, MA-based artist. Also working on expanded education opportunities including a ceramics classroom in the basement, should be up and running by summer. If reach fundraising goal will add printmaking and flat glass studios, etc. Still doing classes, 1 at a time with limited enrollment.

Tom updated on town staffing. He's retiring on July 1st. Charles asked him to continue staffing the conservation commission, Stowe energy committee, and SACC for the next fiscal year to aide in transition as planning and zoning being combined. Tom agreed!

Item 2: Review/Discuss draft SACC 2020 Annual Report

Rachel added mention of achievements prior to becoming a town board, all agreed that was a good add. Tom asked if SACC has a 'the' prior and group agreed it should not have a 'the' so Tom will remove it and use 'and' not '&.' Technically 2020 report is for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 – and certainly is financially – but for a lot of boards they use the calendar year for program/non-financial reporting. Tom will add mention of other organizations and link to the website.

On a motion duly seconded the SACC 2020 Annual Report was unanimously approved with changes as noted.

Item 3: Discuss Marketing & Upcoming Events

Rachel sending press release to Sharon and Shawn today.

Sharon discussed - as SAA now has a nonprofit page on it's website and if SAA doing press release could create a cadence for marketing. E.g., public art project could be a blog post.

Meghan updated on the banner looking for one that can go up a couple of times/year. As a town board may not need to have an event focused banner but may want to have something that implies events, even without being tied to one specifically. Something active but not specific e.g. find the "Where's the Beef" for arts banners. Lynn voted for "Be Inspired!"

Rachel updated on the Rural Art & Justice Project -public art project that is starting/launching/founded in Lamoille County.

"This project is a collaboration conceived and piloted by Lamoille County-based artist Rachel Moore and Greek educator and community organizer Tatiani Rapatzikou. This iteration will be organized and facilitated by Rachel Moore. The lead muralists are the Vermont artist team Will Kasso Condry and

Jennifer Herrera Condry (Juniper Creative Arts), documentary filmmaker Kiara J.T. Cole, and actor Caitlin Duffy. Miles Smith of Northern Vermont University will be a key collaborator and facilitator. These artists and individuals are working in partnership with Helen Day Art Center, the Towns of Stowe and Morrisville, River Arts, the Racial Equity Alliance of Lamoille (REAL), the Morrisville Alliance for Culture & Commerce (MACC), Northern Vermont University, and Lamoille county schools. Our goal is to bring attention to pressing issues of inequities within our region, and through this collaborative process, activate change within our communities at all levels: from the municipality, to businesses, to schools, and to individuals; and to involve students as leaders in this work by building their capacities in creative and civic engagement through the creation of public art”.

On a motion duly seconded the SACC unanimously approved being a collaborative partner on the Rural Art & Justice Project.

There being no further business, on a motion duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05AM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2nd at 9AM.

Respectfully submitted by: Hope Sullivan