



City of Hamtramck
3401 Eastline Street Hamtramck, Michigan 48212
Telephone 313-800-5853

Arts and Culture Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes (taken by Colleen)

01.December 2022; 7:05PM – **IN PERSON at Hamtramck Historical Museum**

1. Call to Order at 7:05 pm

2. Roll Call

Dusty Conley, Lynn Blasey, Tim Price, Faina Lerman, Colleen Burke, Dwydell Garrett

Excused - Alessandro

3. Announcements by Public Officials - none

4. Public Comment (*three minutes limited to Arts & Culture issues*)

a.Dwydell - Saturday, December 3 Chess meet up at Book Suey 1:00-2:00pm, introductory meet up

b.Faina - Sunday Dec 4th, Exhibition "Snake in the Grass" closing ceremony at Popps Packing

c.Lynn - Tea meet up at Oloman Cafe Saturday Dec 3rd (Monthly event)

d.Lynn - Razasn "Faces of Hamtramck" opening Saturday Dec 3rd 9414 Jos Campau

5. Approval of Agenda (add Lynn's items from email)

a.motion Dusty

b. second Lynn

6. Approval of Minutes from our last meeting

a.motion Dusty

b.second Lynn

SECTION I: AGENDA ITEMS – For Discussion/Action/Information

a. Ideas, and discussion for 2023 (Tim)

i. Lynn - idea for an annual programming calendar which would include ongoing Hamtramck events. This would be useful to be more intentional in supporting already established events in town.

ii. Look at cultural organizations and venues, focus the Commission to be more of a conduit for existing artistic/cultural org and venues. Set up the structure to be a stronger commission moving forward.

iii. Conversation about what should be under the Arts and Culture umbrella? Paczki Day? Anything with music and events. There should be agreement in the group about what the Commission works to support.

iv. A newsletter listing current events or something more sustainable - a structure, something that can be crowdsourced so that the public can add to what's happening. Research the public calendar platform. We need something that outlives the people on the commission.

v. Arts Detroit Now - for example though they have a staff person

vi. Meet up App, an option for a self running info hub

vii. Take the idea to a paid person in a Hamtramck institution. The library? Someone already invested in information dispersal. Using Greg's channel? This would still take a dedicated person to organize the information. Someone at the Review?

viii. A discussion forms around if this Commission is sustainable. It is suggested that it is not unless there is a budget. There is not a model for an active volunteer city Arts Commission. There is agreement that the group lost focus and fractured off into too many projects. People feel burned out.

ix. Faina suggests, figure out a minimum budget for the basics, spend 2023 doing this only to create a starting point. Decide on a minimal goal and where that money comes from.

x. Faina - would be valuable to have an access to information, number one

xi. Subcommittee to further these ideas - Tim and Lynn

b. Create subcommittee to be part of CED/City of Hamtramck's – JLG Design & Engineering of the Hamtramck Alley Project (Tim) and/or create: [Hamtramck Joe Louis Greenway](#)

i. Tim - things have been moving forward, what does the A&CC want to see in the alley? The city has

asked A&CC to give input on what should be there. Agreement that this feels like an overwhelming amount of work for the A&CC. How much should we be involved? This is a long term project, we can have ideas for the future. IF, we want to be included, there will be funding included in future levels of this project. (Tim and Lynn are currently on the JLG subcommittee)

ii. ACC JLG Subcommittee (unknown timeline) - Tim, Lynn, (sub sub Dwydell focus on cycling) (Jessica)

c. Final report on '**Hamtramck, Our City**' (*event/festival*) – (Colleen, Faina & Josh)

i. Three great events! Colleen and Faina share some positive aspects about the events and what could have been better.

ii. Discussion/argument takes place over how management of the subcommittee was handled. An attempt was made to pinpoint how members of the A&CC could better support each other in the future. It was suggested that it would be helpful, in the future, to make sure that individuals' roles are clear and that priorities are agreed upon.

iii. Colleen will organize all of the contacts to share with the A&CC.

d. Recap; [HNAF](#) (9.Oct), [MoD](#) (24.Sept) & [Labor Day Fest](#) – (Tim)

i. HNAF was a successful day, very cold, lots of new Hamtramck residents participated, Lynn felt the strong impact of the event and re states, let's focus on this event.

ii. Maria will continue to spear the HNAF

iii. Month of Design was successful, Tim spearheaded an event at Oloman Cafe. The group agrees this is generally a confusing event but Lynn points out the importance of A&CC participation.

iv. Labor Day Fest - impactful for the community, great festival this year. A&CC spearheaded a shared booth. JLG, Beautification and HCI participated. We had a good location next to the High School Drama department.

e. Treasurer report – (Dusty)

i. HCI has reported that we are negative about \$600. This sounds incorrect to the group but it will be investigated. Colleen will share all budget info, including invoices for the Our City events.

ii. Dusty will meet with HCI next Wednesday

iii. Lynn - City Council is reviewing ordinances , there is nothing formal about commissions using fiduciaries. Lynn has been asked for her opinion by the city. Should there be language added to an ordinance about this or leave it alone. There is currently no language. This could be some protection in the future.

f. (added from Lynn's email) - JLG Miural, Friendship House Mural

i. The A&CC role is as follows. Lynn meets with a business that wants a mural, helps with a proposal, helps to choose an artist and encourages them to write a contract. She includes education about the importance of paying artists. The most recent connection has been between Razaan and a Jos Campau business owner for a mural with an opening event happening on Saturday, December 3rd.

g. Centennial Dates -

i. There will be no New Year's Eve Celebration

ii. Centennial banners will be auctioned off next year. Banners were facilitated by the A&CC.

h. Confirm **Thursday, 02.March 2023** Meeting (*in person, but LOCATION tbd*) – (Tim)

i. Tim - many businesses have offered us space for meetings and so it is possible to switch locations. Lynn suggests that may be difficult for public attendance. Faina agrees that quarterly meetings do not need a consistent location.

SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS

1. Public Comment (*three minutes limited to Arts & Culture issues*) - none

2. Chairman's Report - none

3. Members' Report

a. Faina - term is up and she is not renewing

b. Colleen - resigning, also offering support

c. Colleen - wants it noted that Alessandro was brought to the mayor for appointment by Karolyynn Faulkner (city employee) following two, in depth discussions with Colleen. Karolyynn inquired about him joining the Commission before ever attending a meeting. Colleen offered that he could join as a subcommittee member and that he would be happily received but per our Mission Statement the Commission was looking for a resident from the Bangladeshi or Yemeni community to join as these two important groups do not have representation on the Arts and Culture Commission. Karolyynn then took Alessandro's application to the mayor and he was appointed. Colleen wrote to Karolyn to assert her disappointment in this action and received a reply stating that she had followed protocol and that any member of the Commission was free to do the same. The reason Colleen wants this incident recorded in the minutes is so that the Commission will reassert its values and mission statement in the hopes this can be avoided in future appointments. The Commission agreed that community representation will continue to be a priority moving forward with the next appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

Tim motions

Dusty seconds

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