

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE  
CULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020  
6:00 p.m.**

**WHEAT RIDGE RECREATION CENTER  
4005 Kipling Street, Conference Room**

**Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Diane Robb called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests**

Members present: Jerith Gronski, Carol Mathews, Milly Nadler,  
Dave Opp-arrived 6:06 p.m., Gay Porter DeNileon,  
Diane Robb, Jessica Schwartz, and Jill Shannon

Members absent: Ruth Baranowski

Guests: Diana from Wheat Ridge Art League

Staff: Susan Anderson, Recreation & Facilities Manager  
Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Center Department

**Item 3 – Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Porter DeNileon made a motion to accept the minutes of December 11, 2019, as amended. Commissioner Shannon seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

**Item 4 – Unfinished Business**

**Guest: Wheat Ridge Art League**

Commissioner Robb welcomed Diana from the Wheat Ridge Art League. The League's President, Sina March, asked Diana to attend the Commission meeting in response to correspondence received from Commissioner Jessica Schwartz seeking to connect with the Art League on the Cultural Commission's Vision Outreach effort. The Art League is excited to learn more about Artspace and invited the

Commissioners to attend the January 14th meeting at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation on Artspace and the Cultural Commission vision, as well as begin to understand how our groups might align and potentially collaborate.

### **Artspace (Robb)**

Commissioner Robb reported that the Artspace Feasibility Study would be on February 5, 6, and 7th. There is a citywide informational public meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The members of the Commission will also meet with Artspace in Loveland in January to get a hands-on experience and to gain knowledge of their program so that the Commission is well informed when they do reach out to the City of Wheat Ridge.

### **Poet-in-Residence Program (Nadler)**

Commissioner Nadler stated that she confirmed with Commissioner Gronski that there is \$700 remaining in the Wheat Ridge Foundation budget that should have been used for our Poet-in-Residence, Ms. Sharon Heinlen's invoices. The funds include \$500 from Larry Mathews and \$200 from Mayor Starker. Those funds should be transferred to our Cultural Commission budget. Ms. Heinlen may join us for an update at the February meeting. Plans are in the works for the school programs and a Poetry Slam to culminate her term.

### **Wheat Ridge Reads Program (Porter DeNileon)**

Commissioner Porter DeNileon reported that all the arrangements have been made for the Wheat Ridge Reads events on January 15 and 16. Heidi Sheard at Swiss Flower and Gift Cottage will purchase refreshments for evening event and bill the city. Commissioner Porter DeNileon wrote an article about the featured author, Nancy Stohlman, which appeared in *Denver Post's Your Hub* in late December; another article about the event by Commissioner Porter DeNileon was expected to appear in the next *Neighborhood Gazette*. The Commissioner expressed optimism that the events would attract a good audience, but was aware that the edgy material in an unfamiliar form (flash fiction) might also serve a deterrent to some. She encouraged the other commissioners to attend and show their support.

### **Little Free Libraries (Opp/Mathews)**

Commissioners Mathews and Opp will be presenting to Everett Middle School on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, the process and details for the little library project. The City of Wheat Ridge color pallet has been provided to Lance Leonard. If the two concept drawings are ready for the February meeting, the students will provide a presentation at the Cultural Commission meeting.

### **Community Presentation (Schwartz)**

The Cultural Commission has secured a speaking opportunity at the Localworks board meeting on Tuesday, January 28th beginning at 7:30 a.m. Commissioner Schwartz will also meet with Kate, Localworks Executive Director, prior to the presentation to advance the Cultural Commission vision and better understand how to navigate ongoing collaborations with Localworks.

### **Performances in the Park (Opp)**

Mr. Stephen Clyde from the Parks and Recreation Department has a selection meeting on Thursday, January 16th. Commissioner Opp will be participating in the meeting and the selection process.

### **Advertisement for Cultural Commission – Rooted in Fun Times**

This topic will be removed from the agenda per the Commission’s discussion.

### **City Staff Report (Anderson)**

Ms. Susan Anderson provided her staff report to the Commission.

- Foundation Arts & Culture Programs  
(*Fund Balance \$7,914.82 as of 10/31/19*)
- Opportunities for Public Art with future builds
- Art Plaques

### **Item 5 – New Business**

- Research on Arvada Box Project (Baranowski)  
No report at this time, Commissioner Baranowski was not present at the meeting.
- Carnation Festival Partnership (Baranowski)  
No report at this time, Commissioner Baranowski was not present at the meeting.
- RidgeFest Brainstorming  
The Commission discussed several ideas to plan for RidgeFest this year, mostly, how to organize and structure the event. This included featuring the chalk artists again and in addition, to explore other types of entertainment to bring in such as a Flash Mob appearance, some live music, or a local theater group performance, etc., just to name a few suggestions. Commissioner Robb stated to add this topic “RidgeFest Ideas” to the February agenda under “Ongoing Business” for further discussion.

### **Item 6 – Future Agenda Items**

## **Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Robb stated that she contacted Commissioner Baranowski regarding her absenteeism from several of the Commission meetings and have not heard back from her. She stated per the Attendance Policy, that anytime a member is absent for more than 25% of the meetings, such members shall automatically cease to be a member unless absences are excused by the Commission. After a discussion, the Commission will attempt to contact her again.

## **Item 7 – Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Nadler: Looking forward to our community presentation and our outreach efforts for the city.

Commissioner Shannon: My comments are quite similar and what we are continuing to do for our city, and looking forward to all of these things on our agenda.

Commissioner Mathews: Excited about what is coming up on our agenda and looking forward to Wheat Ridge Reads and working with Everitt Middle School.

Commissioner Gronski: Good meeting, very organized, a lot of stuff on the agenda, good work gang.

Commissioner Opp: Happy New Year, thanks to Carol for all you are doing. We have a lot of things on our plate, which is great.

Commissioner Porter DeNileon: I encourage all of you to attend Wheat Ridge Reads at one of our public events next week and Happy New Year as well.

Commissioner Schwartz: Good meeting this evening, looking forward to reciprocating next Tuesday at our meeting. Thank you all, Happy New Year.

Commissioner Robb: Thank you to Diana from the Art League for joining us, we appreciate it. I want to announce tonight that I will not be reapplying to be on the Cultural Commission. Basically, I do not have the time to participate as much as I would like to and I've noticed that I have let a few things drop along the way, and I don't like that. When I look back, I joined the Cultural Commission back in 2008 and we had no true purpose, no budget, and the meetings were 15 minutes long only to satisfy the city's requirements for meetings. Today, I have seen this Commission grow into something that is truly relevant and to be able to participate in this has been such an honor. My last meeting will be the February meeting as my term

officially ends March 2<sup>nd</sup>. I wanted to announce it tonight, as tomorrow I will be notifying the District Council members that I will not be reapplying. I want them to have plenty of time to find the appropriate person to be appointed to this Commission. I respect you all too much for you to hear this through the grapevine. I wanted to announce this to you personally. Whoever is appointed to the Cultural Commission, I hope that they can take it to the next level because we have accomplished so much and are growing exponentially! It has been so much fun to watch this Cultural Commission truly become relevant.

**Item 8 – Adjournment**

Chair Diane Robb adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.