The July 9, 2019 meeting of the Fishers Arts & Culture Commission convened at 6:30 p.m.

A roll call was taken and those members present were: Cecilia Coble, David Decker, Kathryn Haigh, Jocelyn Vare, Kevin Stotts and Marissa Deckert.

Members absent: Chris Lingner, Jaimie Follis, and Marisol Sanchez

Others present were: Leah McGrath, Ross Hilleary, Tony Bagato, Stephanie Perry, Sarah Sandquist, Ailithir McGill, Steve Hardin, and Luke (Mayor’s Youth Council).

Mr. Decker led an ice breaker for the Commission to get to know one another. The topic: What is your dream car?

Mr. Decker called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting. Ms. Vare made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Coble. The Minutes were approved, 6-0.

The Commission acknowledged they reviewed the Staff Reports provided by staff. There were no questions or comments.

Steve Hardin, Esq., of Faegre Baker Daniels, presented the project for the Art Wall at Brooks School Park. This will be a partnership of several companies which Mr. Hardin has brought together to execute this project. A sub-committee will come back together in September to present concepts for the Art Wall.

Ms. McGrath led the Subcommittee Reports Discussion for the Master Plan. Four more think tanks are scheduled and the Subcommittee is working through their vision and goals. There are emerging themes. Mr. Decker suggested bringing kids in after Labor Day and to reach out to all art teachers. Ms. Vare thinks that the think tank sessions are not well attended, possibly due to summer activities. We will add another session for the General Public outside business hours on July 17 and July 26.

-Ms. Vare inquired about Commission involvement and it was discussed that the Commission would review X2 findings. Drafts are due August 26 and they will be brought back to the Commission on September 10 at the next meeting.

The most important takeaways from X2 were discussed vs. what is missing. The discussion summary:
-Mr. Decker- too “corporate” – how to create-inspire people to have Fishers as part of their identity. Inspire to engage.
-Ms. Coble: Where is business involvement/sponsorship/collaboration. Where is educational involvement? Establish traditions. How to understand art and not fear it.
-K. Stotts- the list needs to be softened up
-Ms. Vare- Some people perceive they don’t belong with art. Make it approachable and succinct. It felt generic- how to provide color.
-Ms. Haigh- the list is very wordy. Art is off putting. Yes to legacy and civic pride. Make it accessible and integrated.
-M. Decker- embrace risk-taking
-Ms. McGrath- make art part of the fabric of our experience- we need an anchor statement.

Regarding emerging themes:
-Mr. Decker- guiding principles and core values
-Ms. Haigh- it could be cut in half and still be effective
-Ms. Coble- discoverable and dynamic
-Ms. Vare- we can’t satisfy the “not controversial” statement.
-S. Perry- make a connection
-Ms. McGill- we are missing:
  1. Investing in infrastructure and people
  2. Fishers should be a leader in the arts
  3. A means of expression

-Ms. Vare- "Best Practices"- creative placemaking, professionalism and community-driven partnerships

-Ms. McGrath- cover the spectrum using the committee as a conduit

Asset Review:
The following were added as community assets in the Asset Review:
  1. Opportunity for small space
  2. Delaware Township Building
  3. Gallery 116
  4. City Hall
  5. Ms. Ware spoke about Fishers in need of indoor performing spaces. Perhaps community partnerships?

Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities:
-Mr. Decker- how do we maximize our assets?
-Ms. Coble- we may have summer strengths vs winter weaknesses

-Ms. Ware- rehearsal space is a weakness Ms. McGrath- can the schools help?
-Ms. McGill- what can artists afford- we have a gap with affordable studio space

-Ms. Haigh- where do kids go/digital art/Age Friendly/integrate art into retail- these are gaps

-S. Perry- Arts Crawl is an asset

Update from Aili McGill for the Fishers Arts Council:
Ms. McGill passed out the Arts Guide and discussed highlights.
There were 23 submissions for the mural project at the Yard.

Ross Hilleary discussed attending the Arts Conference in Minneapolis. Fishers is on track with Best Practices in the country.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kay Prange, Recording Secretary