

**CANTON LEISURE SERVICES  
CULTURAL COMMISSION  
February 11, 2021**

**ROLL CALL**

**Attendance:** Darian Moore, Samar Sakakini, Kira Macyda, Bill Tesen, Virginia Thorne-Herrmann, Anthony Davis, Hasina Abdu, Jason Davis, Husain Haidri, Neha Rao, Cornelis VanSpronsen, Ken Bhuva, Greg Hohenberger, Jon LaFever, Jessica Bunjik (Recorder)

**Absent:** Nick Brandon, Thomas Paden, Elena Semenov

**INTRODUCTIONS**

All Members introduced themselves. Five new members joined the CCAH including:

- Tania Ganguly – Board of Trustees Representative
- Cornelis VanSpronsen – Visual Art background in graphic art and marketing
- Husain Haidri – Michigan Center for Youth Justice
- Jason Davis – U of M Center for Entrepreneurship
- Hasina Abdu – Formerly the Partnership for the Arts Rep
- Neha Rao – Sophomore at PCEP – involved in many extracurricular activities

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

New Item to be added New Business:

- A1: Save our Stages Grant Update
- Committee Assignments – Spell Canton

Old Item discussions Additions:

- Quarterly Reports
- Chair adoptions to be added for approval

Motion by Tesen, supported by Thorne-Herrmann to accept the agenda of February 11, 2021 with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Amend the February 13, 2020 minutes to Samar Sakakini as the opener of the meeting.

**ADD:** Sakakini stated that at the February 13, 2020 Meeting a Chair and Vice Chair were determined as Vice Chair Sakakini to become Chair and Secretary Macyda to become Vice Chair and Ginger Thorne-Herrmann to become secretary.

Motion by Macyda, supported by Tesen to accept the amended meeting minutes of February 13, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. COVID Update**

- Theater is still closed. Using for minor internal activities such as police training.
- Summit open and usage is increasing around 30-35%
  - Copper roof over the aquatic center is currently being replaced
  - Working on modifying programs to keep the community safely engaged.
  - We are not committing to anything long term. No hardcopy marketing, only electronic so we can remain flexible as guidance change.
  - Unsure on Liberty Fest at this time – working on all possible ideas from full liberty fest to a smaller community celebration in the fall
- Preservation Park Pavilion
  - Funded with Wayne County Park Millage dollars
  - Keeping the historic aesthetic
  - Includes 3 restroom which will help events being booked in the barn

### **B. Community Awards:**

- Najah Bazzy – Community Achiever in the Hall of Fame for 2020
- Anthony Davis – Volunteer Award for Hall of Fame

### **C. MLK Virtual 2021**

- Thank you to the committee who worked on putting together the video
- Cable and Peg were a huge help in pulling this together
- Will check with cable on how many views it received (220 views!)

### **ADD: Quarterly Reports**

- Discussed at previous meeting for Jessi to disburse. This will be a form that is reviewed at every meeting and will need to be turned into Jessi to collect volunteer hours.
  - Jessi will add a section on these reports where members can fill in their skills for future needs
- COVID19 Memorial – Coordinated National Event in January to remember the COVID19 victims
  - Canton Celebrated with luminaries and flags for the 93 victims Canton has lost due to the virus. Many interfaith groups gathered at this event. Jessi to forward any event information to the commission in the future.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A1: Save our Stages Grant**

- Grant came out as part of the last stimulus package to help fund theaters and performing arts. Canton applied for the full \$40,000 amount to help fund staffing. Since the Theater is not open, the Board does not want to fill the open Performing Arts Coordinator position at this time. This grant can help us hire someone earlier to help start planning before the Theater opens. This position is very involved in all Cultural events throughout the year, not just events at the theater.

**A. Approve 2021 Meeting dates - -unanimous yes**

**B. Outdoor activities –**

Any ideas that come to mind for celebrating any events, please send to Jessi

If interested, we could use a volunteer through social media

1. Black History Month and Lunar Year – February

- Lunar year is being celebrated via social media this year on our CLS page
- Black history month idea – celebrate your hero. With all of the great work people have done this year with the pandemic, we could ask people to submit their hero for Black History month and the commission could share a short story and a quote to help celebrate them throughout the month. Then at the end, the commission could write letters to the honored acknowledging them.

**C. Acts of Culture Week –**

- Series of events/activities at the Theater
- Usually takes place at the end of April or beginning of May
- Open to new ideas for this year’s events – Visual compilation, outdoor exhibits, etc.
- Jon can work with programming staff

**D. Upcoming Celebrations: (Open to ideas)**

- April – Arab American Heritage Month
- April/May – Ramadan
- May – Hispanic Heritage Month

Egg Hunt is happening this year. People will have to pre-register and come during a specific time slot to ensure safety.

Jessi will gather descriptions of all of the current committees

**COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS**

**A. Partnership for the Arts & Humanities**

- Jon is a CLS employee representative member of the Partnership for the Arts.
  - Working on making the factory a destination
  - Kick off in March or April
  - Work on getting a future tour for the CCAH

**B. Multicultural Committee**

- Have cable run banners for the events

**C. Historical Society - <http://www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org/>**

- 3 new board members
- Museum display for Christmas. Will most like do another at the Cherry Hill School
- Christmas stories via zoom at Bartlett Travis House
- Looking into doing ghost stories from the barn via zoom

- B4 (Beer, Brats, and bands at the Barn) event is a go this year – large fundraiser for the historical society.
  - \$25 per person – beer tasting, brat and band entertainment
  - Roughly 850 people attended the 2019 event
- Membership is \$15 per person or \$25 a family

#### **D. Resident Art Groups**

##### **Michigan Philharmonic** - <https://www.michiganphil.org/>

- Doing videos of past productions
- Live concerts at homes. Will video in September for Christmas
- Concert in March in reopen
- Website list all fundraising and events

##### **D&M Art Studio**

- Moved to the Village Arts factory
- Running Classes virtually

##### **Dance**

- Elena absent

##### **Village Theater**

- Updates:
  - Seats are all installed (photos attached) – if you would like to come see in person, please set up with Jessi
  - New video wall, audio/lights, carpet coming
  - Seat sponsorship will start up once the new coordinator is on board. Purchase a seat at the theater. Discount for renewals.
  - Currently not doing performances because with the guidelines, only 100 in the building including staff and performers. Does not leave much room for audience members.

#### **ROUND TABLE**

##### **A. Additional Public Comment**

- Look into purchasing a banner to take to events – Cor to design
- Suggest to remove DM Art Studio under Committee Member Reports since Sharon is no longer on committee to report
- Add a PCCS update
- Township update – COVID Testing site at the North Pavilion at Heritage Park
  - Pre-registration is preferred and will make process quicker but not mandatory.

- Free for everyone
- Very underutilized
- Hopefully convert to a vaccination center. If during winter months, they plan to use one of the banquet rooms at the summit for vaccinations.
- If interested in volunteering at the Testing site, please contact Will Hayes at 734-394-5357.
- Members can be involved in multiple committees as well as non-members.
- Any future ideas – send to Jessi. She will coordinate and get you in touch with the appropriate person.

**B. Next Meeting**

Thursday, May 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. – ZOOM.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by A. Davis, supported by Moore to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.