

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
7:00 pm

WebEx video recording of the meeting:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/rockvillemd/ldr.php?RCID=94e97bd44551476eaccc22cb22c61654>

Attendees

- Commissioners: Karen Askin, Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Cristin Cash, Susan Hoffmann, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Lydia Tyburski
- Mayor and Council Liaison: Mayor Monique Ashton
- City Staff: Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; Anne O'Dell, Arts and Culture Program Manager, Staff Liaison

7:16 pm – Meeting called to order by Karen Askin, Commission Chair

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Motion to approve made by Frances Bevington
- Seconded by Cristin Cash
- All in favor: unanimously passed
- Discussion: No corrections, minutes were approved

Chair Report: Karen Askin

- Discussion about City budget process

Mayor Report: Mayor Monique Ashton, Mayor and Council Liaison

- Information shared about uncertainty about impact of federal grants and potential job loss for city residents. City support through budget process for federal employees and contractors who have lost their jobs was discussed.

Staff Report: Anne O'Dell, Arts and Culture Program Manager and Staff Liaison

- Creative meeting actions shared, upcoming events and updates on various art projects.
- Final design for the College Gardens Park mural will be sent to Mayor and Council in April.
- Residents unanimously approved the design and requested two additional walls to be included in the mural.
- Community participation in painting the mural was not feasible due to liability concerns and project scope.
- Three committees are proposed: Public Art, Programs and Events, and Community Engagement.
- Monique Ashton suggests promoting events and exploring Rockville to spread the word.
- Monique Ashton discusses adding another location, Clinton AME, for the Lincoln Park postcards.

Committee/Human Rights Commission Updates

- Art in Public Places - Temporary Works Committee: Francis Bevington

- Subcommittee to work on the work plan for next month's meeting.
 - Focus on incorporating public discourse into the public art program.
 - Address barriers to local and emerging artists and explore creative ideas for providing hope and inspiration during difficult times.
- Human Rights Commission: Brian Rogers – no report

Old Business: Karen Askin – no old business

New Business: Karen Askin

- Branding for the City of Rockville as an arts destination
 - Designating the entire city as an arts district and identifying specific arts destinations and installations.
 - Developing a wayfinding system and kick-starting the arts and entertainment district.
 - Requesting the designation from the Mayor and Council, involving multiple groups for a more robust effort.
- 2025 CAC Annual Report logistics were discussed
- Other Business:
 - Karen Askin plans to organize a retreat and discusses requirements for hosting it.
- Karen Askin to speak on behalf of the Commission at a City Budget Hearing
 - Motion made by Susan Hoffmann
 - Seconded by Liz Ortuzar
 - Discussion:
 - The commission needs to focus on building relationships with arts and cultural nonprofits in Rockville.
 - Conducting an arts and culture survey is crucial for a successful strategic planning process.
 - Consider working towards an arts and entertainment district designation while laying the groundwork for the strategic plan.
 - Motion: Karen Askin will say that it is important to set up Anne O'Dell for success in her position and don't lose sight of the cultural arts plan.
 - All in favor: All except Melissa Beattie who abstained and Lydia Tyburski who did not vote.

Announcements: Karen Askin

- Announcements about VisArts and upcoming arts festival

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Susan Hoffman, seconded by Lydia Tyburski, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.