

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE**  
Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 13, 2025  
7:00 pm

WebEx link for video recording of the meeting:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/rockvillemd/ldr.php?RCID=60fb6677312453ce1f76259f1f53783d>

Attendees

Commissioners: Karen Askin, Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Cristin Cash, Susan Hoffmann, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers, Lydia Tyburski, Anna-Mária Vág

Mayor and Council Liaison: Mayor Monique Ashton

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

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by Karen Askin, Commission Chair

Approval of Minutes of the January 2025 Meeting: Motion to approve made by Susan Hoffmann, seconded by Cristin Cash. Revisions were to misspelled names. Motion to approve as amended made by Susan Hoffman. Vote to approve: Karen Askin, Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Cristin Cash, Susan Hoffmann, Howard Jung, Brian Rogers, Lydia Tyburski, Anna-Mária Vág; Liz Ortuzar did not vote.

Chairperson Report: Karen Askin – no report

Mayor/Councilmember Report: Monique Ashton, Mayor

- MLK Day event was canceled due to lack of access to the Fitzgerald theater, plans to hold future events in city facilities.
- Nothing has changed with the Flow of Communications. Commissioners can still directly talk with the Mayor.

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

- The city's visual and performing arts programs, including music, theater, ballet, chorus, and concert bands, are undergoing various activities and performances.
- Updates were provided on the swim and fitness center preparations, mural projects, and community engagement sessions. Feedback about registering for Swim and Fitness Center mosaic workshop was shared.
- Discussion about materials used for Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex Mural:
  - Printed mural on parachute cloth is the chosen option due to building limitations and longevity.
  - The design will be scanned and digitally printed on vinyl banners, which will be hung on a hanging system.
  - The hanging system option was discussed with the Twinbrook Civic Association on January 21, 2025, and will be implemented,
  - Mayor Ashton asked staff to find examples to shared of murals printed on vinyl banners with the Community Association.
  - Mayor Ashton: Questions and concerns were raised by community members after the meeting, indicating a need for further clarification.
- A maintenance plan is being developed for the entire art collection, including the new mural.

- Frances Bevington commented that the most recent implementation plan for public arts program has expired, pending revisions and a new plan. Commission needs guidance from Mayor and Council on how to proceed.
- Review of Flow of Communications procedures, why it was implemented, how it will work, what has changed, and the role of the CAC.

#### Temporary Public Art Subcommittee Report: Frances Bevington

- Karen Askin recused herself from the discussion due to being employed by Morguard as a public art consultant in Town Center. Contract work included deaccessioning The Hatter of Rockville.
- Morguard owns the building The Hatter of Rockville is on and requested the piece be removed.
  - Motion made by Susan Hoffman to recommend the deaccessioning and disposal of The Hatter of Rockville banner by Megan Marlett after due diligence to capture historical information relevant about the piece and to have removal of the banner take place at a mutually agreed upon time with the property owner.
  - Motion was seconded by Liz Ortuzar.
  - All in favor: Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Cristin Cash, Susan Hoffmann, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers, Anna-Mária Vág.
  - Lydia Tyburski did not vote. Karen Askin recused herself for reasons stated above.

#### Old Business: Karen Askin

- Proposal to combine permanent and temporary works committees to allow for more nimble and responsive projects was discussed, no vote taken to move forward. Frances Bevington asked Anne O'Dell to provide recommendations for subcommittees the Commission could form to support Anne's work. Anne will provide suggestions at March 2025 meeting.
- The code for public art needs to be rewritten, and implementation plans will follow.
- Lincoln Park, Twin Brooke, and College Gardens are the only new projects this year.
- There will be a steady stream of public art installations in the coming years, including David Skull Park.

#### New Business: Karen Askin

- Motion to appoint Liz Ortuzar and Brian Rogers as jurors for the Lincoln Park Public Art Project to replace the Memory Walk was made by Susan Hoffmann, seconded by Cristin Cash; All in favor except for Lydia Tyburski who did not vote.
- Liz Ortuzar will send information about a potential permanent rehearsal space for Young Artists of America to Anne O'Dell
- Karen Askin would like to hold a CAC retreat. Anne O'Dell and Mayor Ashton confirmed it would be a public meeting. CAC is interested in getting together in-person.

Motion to adjourn made by Frances Bevington, seconded by Liz Ortuzar; all in favor except for Lydia Tyburski who did not vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Minutes approved at the March 12, 2025, Cultural Arts Commission Meeting.