

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
7:00 pm

WebEx video recording of the meeting:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/rockvillemd/ldr.php?RCID=94e97bd44551476eacc22cb22c61654>

Attendees

- Commissioners: Karen Askin, Melissa Beattie, Frances Bevington, Cristin Cash, Michelle Chite, Susan Hoffmann, Howard Jung, Liz Ortuzar, Brian Rogers, 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

7:01 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
- Discussion: No corrections, minutes were approved
- All in favor: unanimously passed

Chair Report: Karen Askin

- Discussion about Morguard's murals in Town Center.

Mayor Report: Mayor Monique Ashton, Mayor and Council Liaison

- Explore Rockville website promotes local events and activities, separate from city control.
- Explore the possibility of having a link to Explore Rockville on the city's homepage. There are legal issues regarding cross-linking with Explore Rockville website
- Proposal for clear disclaimer when leaving official Rockville website for Explore Rockville
- Collaboration with colleges, businesses, and community groups for event listings and promotions

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

- Updates given about previous month's city-managed arts programs and current public art projects.
 - Deaccessioning *The Hatter of Rockville* and College Gardens Park mural final design are on the Mayor and Council's April 28 consent agenda.
 - The Twinbrook CRC Annex mural final design has not been received.
- A high-level review of the Arts and Culture Program Manager's FY26 Workplan and five-year plan was given. The number one priority is to build relationships and design sustainable programs in the arts and culture sector.
- Cultural mapping will be done in FY26. It is the process of identifying artistic and cultural assets in a community.

- High-level review of the MSAC's Arts and Entertainment District program. Discussion included:
 - What the program is and the application process, which is extensive.
 - According to the criteria, Rockville would not be a competitive applicant.
 - It may be beneficial to focus on initiatives that build a thriving arts scene in Rockville before pursuing an arts and entertainment district designation.
 - Next steps were shared with the CAC if the CAC decides they recommend the city pursue AED Designation.

Committee/Human Rights Commission Updates

- Art in Public Places - Temporary Works Committee: Francis Bevington
 - PRIDE 2025 artist proposal was reviewed.
- Art in Public Places – Permanent Works Committee: Liz Ortuzar
 - Red Gate Park redevelopment discussed, including possible incorporation of stone pillars and sculpture garden.
 - Shared details about potential projects and art selection process for Lincoln Park Public Art Project.
- Human Rights Commission: Brian Rogers – no report

Old Business: Karen Askin – no old business

New Business: Karen Askin

- VisArts Executive Director has retired and is in Spain. The new Executive Director for VisArts will begin in May.

Announcements: Karen Askin

- Announcements about VisArts and upcoming arts festival. Volunteers will be needed.
- Link was emailed to schedule the CAC retreat. Not all commissioners received it, and it will be emailed again.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Susan Hoffman, seconded by Lydia Tyburski, all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.