

**Franklin Cultural District Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 25, 2024  
Held as a Virtual Meeting  
via Remote Access Zoom Platform**

*This meeting was held in the Franklin Public Library in the Friends of the Franklin Library Community Room. Citizens were allowed to attend in person, and also able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number or participate by using the Zoom link provided on the agenda.*

Members present: Chair John LoPresti, Vice Chair Amy Adams, Clerk Katherine Botelho, Sue Cass, Dr. Pandora Carlucci, Roberta Trahan, Patrick Conlan,

Members not present:

Also in attendance: Bryan Taberner, Planning and Community Development Director; Caleigh Keating, Franklin Public Library; Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator; Peg Munson, Franklin Art Association

***Upon achieving quorum with the required minimum of members present, Chair LoPresti opened the meeting at 7:01 PM***

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

***Ms. Trahan motioned to approve the December 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Dr. Carlucci. Motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.***

**Franklin Public Library Arts & Cultural Programming**

Ms. Caleigh Keating discussed the programming and upcoming events that Franklin Library has been working on, which included programming for children and youth as well as adults. She mentioned the upcoming Mary King Concert on March 16. Dr. Carlucci commented that she liked Ms. Keating's response to the idea of partnering between the Library and the Committee. Ms. Keating also announced the new 2024 Reading Challenge, which involves a prompt for reading each month of the year for participants. Dr. Carlucci asked how the Committee can support them further, to which Ms. Keating said that word of mouth promotion is always helpful and collaboration with programming is welcome. Chair LoPresti thanked Ms. Keating for presenting and having the Committee host their meeting at the Library.

Chair LoPresti read to the Committee about the results of the Franklin Children's Museum's first mobile Museum event at the Elks Club that the Committee had helped fund with grants, saying that Meghan Hagen had reported an attendance of 145 families or roughly 500 visitors. The Committee Members remarked it was a very successful event.

**Proposed Public Art at Rockland Trust**

Mr. Conlan began presenting a project involving artistic painting of the sides on the Northwestern-facing side of the Rockland Trust 58 Main Street branch, saying that he had been in touch with Lisa Piana of the Downtown Partnership about it. He detailed that the five framed sections could be painted with themes that could be seasonal and change from time to time. They will be moving forward with trying to acquire funding and getting Rockland Trust involved, but the presentation at the meeting is to gather input from the Committee currently.

Chair LoPresti commented that it is a great initiative and the Committee wants to promote public art throughout the Town of Franklin, and the challenge will be finding funding for this project as the Committee's funding capabilities are exhausted for the year. However, they will continue to look for funding opportunities as they come up, but for this project they will need to approach the bank. Ms. Trahan and Chair LoPresti added that the project would be a benefit to the bank by providing publicity, given the location of where the paintings would be being displayed. Chair LoPresti said that the project may have to be done in stages, one frame at a time. Similar costs to those in the Artsy Box Project, such as for priming the sites and paying artists for their supplies and time, would likely be present.

Dr. Carlucci commented that the project should be done one framework at a time, which Vice Chair Adams agreed with. Vice Chair Adams added that getting estimates on costs should be done before any plans are put into motion. Chair LoPresti emphasized getting figures on how much Rockland Trust would be willing to contribute, as well as making sure that permission for the artwork is put into documentation. Vice Chair Adams detailed the differences and additional challenges in painting and maintaining artwork on the frames when compared to the Artsy Boxes. Chair LoPresti said the next steps for Mr. Conlan would be for him to meet with the Rockland Trust branch manager and they will likely start the program with two frames being painted, given the funding challenge. Dr. Carlucci asked if having the business which looks out to the wall with the frames involved in the discussion would be worthwhile, which Chair LoPresti said it could be. Deputy Town Administrator Amy Frigulietti weighed in to mention that a grant from the MMA may still be available for the Committee to apply for, but they would need to look into how eligible this project would be with said grant.

### **Committee Reports – Artsy Box Project Part 2**

Vice Chair Adams discussed the proposed Part 2 of the Artsy Box Project, starting with a timeline. The timeline would be nearly identical to the first part of the Artsy Box Project done in 2023, but this time the application forms would list painting dates be in or around May so that artists have a better idea of when the work should be done. Applicants will be told of which designs have been chosen by March 7. Dr. Carlucci asked about when Chair LoPresti and Vice Chair Adams would like the Committee Newsletter to start mentioning the Project, to which Vice Chair Adams answered that it would be shared with her in the finalized timeline.

### **Committee Reports – PorchFest Franklin**

Chair LoPresti briefed the Committee by explaining how bands and homeowners will be able to register for the event. He added that Tri-County had drafted a logo that has been finalized for the event and website. Chair LoPresti said that the URL for the Franklin PorchFest website is "franklin.porchfest.info". Dr. Carlucci asked if information would be sent out on how to support the organizers and participators of the events, which Chair LoPresti responded that it would. It was confirmed that June 1 from 12 to 6 would be the date of the event. Chair LoPresti added that a letter has been drafted to be sent out to homeowners in the area of the PorchFest to hear responses back on whether or not they would be interested in lending their porch to a bank to play on it.

### **Member Roundtable**

Mr. Conlan asked about the dates of the PorchFest, to which Chair LoPresti clarified that there was also a rain date of June 2. Peg Munson announced that The Franklin Art Association has partnered with the Art Department at Franklin High School to have them display art in the Franklin Art Association's Gallery for a month, from February 17 to March 16. There will be a

reception on February 29, from 6:00-8:00pm, in the Escape Into Fiction Bookstore where the Gallery is located. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

**Next Cultural District Meeting Dates**

February 8, 2024 7:00 PM at Dean College

March 7, 2024 7:00 PM

**Additional Comments**

Deputy Town Administrator Amy Frigulietti said that she hopes to be in person at the next meeting, and added that the Town is in the process of hiring a Director of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy, and hopefully an individual who has been chosen for the position will be ready to appear at the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

***Ms. Trahan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Carlucci. Motion passed unanimously.***

***Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM***

Respectfully submitted,

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Tyler Paslaski  
Administrative Assistant