

May 16, 2022
Commission for the Arts
Royal Oak City Hall, Room 122
203 S. Troy Steet
7:30 PM – Regular Meeting
DRAFT Minutes

The primary goal of the commission is to encourage and promote arts and culture in the community. The City of Royal Oak recognizes the importance of arts and culture to a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable community. The city strives to promote and encourage arts and culture through the public and private display of art.

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Jason Gittinger, Jodie Ellison, Denise Reske, Alesha Beistline,

Members absent: Commissioner Pat Paruch, Melissa Behring, Laura Bonnell,

Others present: Peter Young, Graduate City Manager Fellow; Austen Brantley, Jim Ellison, State Representative; Judy Davids, Communications Specialist

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve May 16, 2022 agenda.

Motion by Laura Bonnell

Seconded by Jodie Ellison

Approved Unanimously

4. Approval of Minutes – [April 18, 2022](#)

Motion to approve the April 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion by Alesha Beistline

Seconded by Jodie Ellison

Approved Unanimously.

5. New Business

A. Hamer Finch Wilkins Park Art Installation

Royal Oak communications specialist Judy Davids visited to introduce new Hamer Finch Wilkins park updates. She presented the history of the first black families to settle in Royal Oak and their descendants Keshia and Brittany joined us. The city commission re-designated Beachwood Park as Hamer Finch Wilkins Park. Currently, there is not much in the park, just trees and a fence.

Artist Austen Brantley gave a presentation about putting a sculpture in the park. The Commission and guests looked at Austen's website.

Judy Davids: don't know what we want to do yet. We need some direction and help. We need to raise about \$120,000. We were talking about a sculpture park before the pandemic. Our vision is to have a garden with educational aspect.

There are many options that range from large sculpture to a relief, depending on need and budget. The relief would be an option if we raise less money

Jason supports funding the initial sculpture design.

Getting more people involved will always great. It's envisioned as a passive reflective place with landscaping and benches.

The City Commission approved the name change.

We want to show the positive black history within their city. It will be fully upgraded with a sign and landscaping with a traditional reflective path with flowers, water feature, sculpture. Something like Charleston or Savannah. More than just grass.

The Royal Oak civic foundation is the fiduciary for the park.

Representative Jim Ellison is going to investigate state grants. He prefers a statue and thinks we can do it. The state going through the budgeting process, and he would like to get a grant budgeted

Austen: It takes a month to create a preliminary design for \$3000.

Can the maquette be reproduced to fundraise?

Motion to approve to pay Artist Austen Brantley \$3000 from the Commission of the Arts budget to make a preliminary design.

Motion by Jodie Ellison

Second by Denise Reske

Approved Unanimously

B. 4th Street Art

The commission would like to make connect with the artists or their family before negotiation. The commission would like the artists to take back or gift the sculptures.

C. Update on Art Explored

No outdoor artwork has been submitted for 2022 The commission is asked if they would like to keep submissions open for outdoor artwork submissions. They agreed to keep submissions open for outdoor artwork. Laura, Denise, and Jodie are on the jury. The group does not want Daniel Hill on the jury.

To get more outdoor artwork: ask artists if they can they make an outdoor version; maybe during the jury process.

6. Old Business

None

7. General Announcements

None

8. Social Media

A. Art Explored

No update

B. Summer Concert Series

No update

9. Adjournment

Motion by Denise Reske

Second by Jodie Ellison

Approved unanimously

