



Lowell City Council

Arts/Culture SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: April 13, 2021
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber/VIA Zoom
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Nuon, C. Mercier, C. Samaras - Remote. Also present were Christine McCall (DPD), C. Drinkwater, C. Chau and Eric Slagle (Inspectional Services).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Nuon noted meeting agenda and called meeting to order noting participants.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Nuon noted how meeting would be conducted and introduced Ms. McCall who made presentation entitled "City of Lowell – Citywide Mural Policy" dated April 13, 2021. Ms. McCall provided overview of the formation of the working group and the policy with regards to adopting an ordinance to regulate mural. Ms. McCall noted the groups who provided feedback to establish standards and regulations within the ordinance. Ms. McCall outlined the goals of the program and plans of potential funding options. Ms. McCall outlined the ease of the application process and provided body with a sample of the application. Registered speaker, Celeste Bernardo (National Parks), addressed the subcommittee. C. Nuon noted the involvement of the National Parks as providing input to the process and not as a controlling entity. C. Mercier noted the great opportunity to showcase the art and artists of the City and showcase what Lowell is about. C. Nuon commented that the proposed ordinance should be sent to Law Department for review and draft and come back before Council for further input from the public. C. Samaras lauded the presentation of Ms. McCall noted that Lowell offers so much in terms of art and that process is definitely moving in the right direction. C. Drinkwater noted the amount of work that has been done on the proposal and creating a process for approval. C. Drinkwater noted program was designed for all of City and focus on downtown as a draw for visitors. C. Nuon requested a lists of buildings that were not available for murals as well as a list for those which may be available for placement of murals. Registered speakers, Mary Hart and Jean Winslow, addressed the body. C. Nuon questioned the permitting process. Ms. McCall outlined the process and noted that work of artists are carefully reviewed before



accepted into program. C. Drinkwater noted that the quality of the work is important and that such projects can be expensive. C. Drinkwater noted need for partnerships with non-profits and noted Beyond Walls as an example. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Samaras to refer ordinance to Law Department for review and draft. So voted. C. Nuon provided closing remarks noting public still has opportunity for further input.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Samaras. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
