



CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

OCTOBER 24, 2023

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 6:00 PM

This summary is provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to record proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. Public comments are noted as heard by the Cultural Arts Commission, but not quoted or paraphrased. This document includes limited presentation by the Cultural Arts Commission and invited speakers in summary form.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Cookson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Cultural Arts Commission Members - Present
 - Melody Cookson (Chair)
 - Michael Barsky (Vice Chair)
 - Gene Andrews
 - Shital Foster
 - Alicia Burr (Alternate)
- Cultural Arts Commission Members - Absent
 - Dianna Smeal
 - Sabine Genet
 - Sumita Patel
- Staff
 - Lauren Shapiro – City Clerk
 - Morgan Rodgers – Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Kurt Kirby – Senior Operations Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amber O'Dwyer – Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2023

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson deferred approval of the minutes from the September 26, 2023, meeting to the next regular meeting in the absence of a majority quorum of the commission present at the meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Public Art Approval – The Longest Continuous Outdoor Mural Trail in the World

- Thomas Nolf representing the North Fulton Rotary came forward to present the item.
- Mr. Nolf mentioned that this is the second time he is coming before the Commission regarding the item and thanked the Cultural Arts Commission again for the role they play in the future of arts and culture in Alpharetta's future.
- Mr. Nolf recounted a story regarding the City of Semmering, Austria. Semmering is a small city situated between Vienna and Venice that connected the two major cities by rail. This small city envisioned and built a route that had a huge impact. North Fulton Rotary hopes the City can see the impact that the mural project along the Greenway might have, albeit on a smaller scale.

The Initiative

- The applicant is requesting permission to paint (9) raised concrete maintenance holes (also known as turrets or manholes) murals along the Alpharetta Greenway Trails beginning at the Haynes Bridge Road entrance and ending at Kimball Bridge.
- North Fulton Rotary placed a call for artists to local high school students, hosted a how-to-paint maintenance holes workshop for the selected students, and have committed to maintaining the maintenance holes in the future.
- The maintenance plan for the murals includes:
 - Preparation of the site to include the City's commitment to remove weeds and grass along the bottom of each maintenance hole for ready accessibility for the student artists and to ensure routine maintenance to keep the murals visible and aesthetically pleasing along the Greenway trail.
 - An account has been established with Sherwin William for the paint procured for the project and the account will keep record of the colors used for color matching of the maintenance holes over time.
 - To prevent / deter vandalism, the better the surface is prepared, the less likely graffiti would be permanent. Power washing of the maintenance holes, a base coat, the mural, and protective topcoat will be put in place to ensure the murals will last and any graffiti can be easily removed.
- North Fulton Rotary will provide staff with a day-of logistics plan regarding how they will stage and paint the murals in 1-2 days. The plan will not impact the walkways or people along the Greenway.
- North Fulton Rotary's goal is to make this a yearly project and continue to paint maintenance holes along the Alpharetta Greenway. The hope is to continue the murals up past Mansell to the County line.

Approval by Fulton County

- The raised concrete maintenance holes are owned by Fulton County and located along the Alpharetta Greenway Trails. The applicant received permission from the Fulton County

Department of Public Works to paint the maintenance holes to support beautification of the Alpharetta Big Creek Greenway.

- The initiative from Fulton County for the mural project will emphasize the importance of the water infrastructure system and demonstrate the collective commitment to protect our water resources through community and government partnership.
- Fulton County not only provided approval but also will provide materials and tools to paint the maintenance holes.
- Fulton County has agreed to revisit the partnership in 2024 for additional support.

Approval by City of Alpharetta

- The Cultural Arts Commission gave the nod to proceed with the concept and requested North Fulton Rotary return for approval of each set of murals to be completed. The first (9) are ready for review and approval.
- For 2023, the applicant is presenting (9) maintenance holes with individual murals and artists. Each maintenance hole mural proposal was curated by the Public Art Review Committee.
- The Public Art Review Committee held the review on October 9, 2023, and recommended approving the application with revised visuals for (2) of the (9) proposed murals; revised maintenance plan; and a day-of logistics plan.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: Public Art Approval – The Longest Continuous Outdoor Mural Trail in the World

Q Were there two murals you were making edits on? (Burr)

A Yes, number murals 7 and 9 were edited. (Nolfa)

Q Will the entire structure be wrapped in paint, or will some of the grey concrete remain exposed? (Barsky)

A Below the floodplain, the maintenance holes will remain unpainted. Above the floodplain level through the cone-shaped top of the maintenance hole will be painted. (Nolfa)

Q Can a QR code be added to the murals? (Barsky)

A Yes, but North Fulton Rotary also has the goal of listing the muralists on the City's website pertaining to public art pieces within the City. Additionally, the organization thought a QR code on a specific rock at the parking lot recognizing the various partners might be possible. (Nolfa)

Q Is any lighting being considered? (Andrews)

A The Big Creek Greenway closes at dusk, so no plans for lighting are being considered to deter visitation of the Greenway after hours and to stay within the realm of safety. (Nolfa)

❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion.

- Commissioner Andrews offered a motion to approve the (9) mural designs, as presented, for the raised maintenance holes along the Big Creek Greenway as part the North Fulton Rotary "Turrets to Treasures" beautification project.
- Commissioner Barsky seconded the motion.

❖ The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – October 2023

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Monthly Highlights

- The annual Arts Center Family Day was held on October 7. The event featured several local Art Leader Groups, free crafts for event attendees, and was a great way to engage with the community. Hundreds of people came out making the event a great interlude to ARTober.
- October's is Natural Arts & Humanities month, and a proclamation was presented at the October 16 City Council Meeting.

Monthly Initiatives

- Crosswalks in Parks – November – Alpharetta Community Center (ACC) Cross Walk
 - A new mural is to be installed at the ACC at Wills Park.
 - Staff hopes to start the crosswalk mural the first of November (weather permitting).
- The Spotlight Theater Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently underway between the City of Alpharetta and North Point Mall. The MOU will permit the use of a designated space within the mall as a community theater for shows and performances with an audience of approximately 150 people. Staff is hopeful that the MOU will be presented and approved by City Council in November.
- "The Visitor" sculpture has a revised rendering, and the artist is set to begin work in November.
 - At the Cultural Art Commission's request, the second heart was removed, and the fonts on the back of the piece modified to make them more congruent.

Current & Upcoming Happenings

- *The Warmth of Autumn Quilt Exhibit* courtesy of the Chattahoochee Evening Stars Quilt Guild is on display at the City Hall Community Room Gallery Exhibit. The exhibit's display overflowed to the Arts Center.
- *Wood Works* is the current exhibit on display at the Arts Center. Art pieces are constructed from wood salvaged from the Westbook Farm that had to be demolished at Mayfield Park.
- *Alpharetta Music Match featuring Surrender Hill* at Fogo & Lions is scheduled for October 26 at 9pm.
- *Hamlet* is being presented by ACT1 Community Theater at Brooke Street Park's East Lawn on October 27 & 28 and November 4 & 5.
- *Beethoven's Fifth Symphony* is being presented by the Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church on November 3 at 8pm.
- *Diwali* presented by India American Cultural Association will be November 11 at North Point Mall.

- *Artists Holiday Market* presented by Arts Alpharetta will be at the Alpharetta Arts Center November 18 from 10am-6pm.
- The *Atlanta Portrait Society Annual Exhibit* will be on display at the Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery November 21, 2023 – January 20, 2024.
- *She Loves Me* presented by ACT1 Community Theater is showing December 1-17 on Fridays and Saturdays 8pm and on Sundays 2pm.

b. Open Records Act Training & Presentation

- Lauren Shapiro, City Clerk came forward to present the item.
- The City of Alpharetta has issued an official City of Alpharetta email address to all City board and commission members.
- In addition, the City Clerk's Office would like to issue a brief training on the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A 50-18-70 through 50-18-78).
 - The Georgia State Legislature has deemed that government should be open to the public to include meetings and public records and such records should be provided to those who make requests within a quick timeframe.
 - The definition of a public record has been expanded to include documents, maps, photos, text messages, emails, and more.
 - With the inclusion of emails, the City wishes to offer a refresher on proper open records procedures to all board members and commissioners.
 - In 2022, the City received over 6,200 open records requests and is on track to receive even more this year.
 - Requests come in many forms (phone call, email, letter, and the City's online portal known as JustFIOA).
 - The City has three (3) days to provide the records, or a pre-retrieval estimate to process the request.
 - While some information may be redacted (50 exceptions identified by the State of Georgia), not all apply to cities. Examples of items that can be redacted include personal cell phone numbers or personal email addresses, medical records, attorney client privileged items, trade secrets, and/or information related to children's records.
 - Moving forward, to ensure cyber security and ease of open record retrieval, the City has issued a city email account to each commissioner that will only be used moving forward.
 - Additionally, training videos will be distributed once a month via the City's Department of Information Technology to ensure compliance and to strengthen cybersecurity.

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Commissioner Foster mentioned Family Day was a wonderful time, was very creative, and well put together. Additionally, the 2023 Wire & Wood event received high praise from friends invited by Commissioner Foster to attend the event.

- Commissioner Andrews mentioned several event he helped facilitate, including a large film festival held on October 6-7 attended by several local dignitaries and celebrities. In addition, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Fulton County Commissioner Barrett and several others were honored with a “sneaker” brunch.
- Chairman Cookson mentioned The Alpharetta Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a “Decorate the District” contest for downtown brick-and-mortar businesses to bring a festive introduction to the upcoming holiday season. The initiative will include window painting artists and the décor will be voted upon to determine the best display.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chris Miller, with the Law Office of Miller & Chaet, came forward to speak.
- Mr. Miller stated he had attended the North Fulton Rotary mural artist workshop and was excited about the mural project. He wished he could bring forward the eight muralists who are very enthusiastic about the project.
- Mr. Miller mentioned there are plans to have a celebration or unveiling but the North Fulton Rotary is waiting for the murals to be completed before an event and date is solidified.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairwoman Cookson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Barsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairwoman Cookson adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amber O'Dwyer
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services