

Reedsburg Arts Committee Agenda
October 1, 2019
Reedsburg City Hall, 134 S Locust Street
12:15 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT A SUBJECT OVER WHICH THE COMMON COUNCIL HAS DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. IF A QUORUM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ATTENDS THIS MEETING, NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE COMMON COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2019:

THE COMMITTEE WILL RECEIVE INFORMATION ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMITTEE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT DISCUSS THESE TOPICS, AND WILL NOT TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THEM AT THIS MEETING

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A. Approve/Deny: new Chair - Glen Slaats.
- B. Approve/Deny: Business cards for Glen Slaats.
- C. Discuss judging Lion's Club poster by October 14, 2019.
- D. Discuss 20 Poems Grant Final Report.
- E. Review Nishan Park RFP.
- F. Review other updates from sub-committees: Maintenance & Budget, Policy/Documents Revisions, Webpages, Facebook page.
- G. New Business.

II. ADJOURN:



The City of Reedsburg does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admissions or access to, or treatment of or employment in, its programs or activities. Disability-related aids or services, including printed information in alternate formats, to enable persons with disabilities to participate in public meetings and programs are available by calling (608) 524-6404. To be able to meet the needs of a request for a different format contact the City Clerk-Treasurer at 134 S. Locust Street, Reedsburg, WI at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request.

Reedsburg Arts Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 4, 2019

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. **Meeting Location:** Reedsburg City Hall, 134 South Locust

Members Present:

Jenifer Stanek, Chair
Lee Gnatzig

Katie Williams, Secretary
Glen Slaats

Katie Schofield
Beth Voigt

Members Absent: Gatlin Fenwick

Others Present: Jay Salinas, Jacob Crosetto, Tim Becker, Joann-Mundth Douglas, Kristine Koenecke,

Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes: August 7, 2019 Motion by Williams Second by Slaats

Motion Carried.

General Business:

1. **Review Table Delish Bounty Grant Project- tabled.**
2. **Review Budget.**
 - a. Current funds: \$13,547.18
3. **Discuss RFP for old movie theater site**
 - a. City will look at purchasing land, Park & Rec plan to build park
 - b. Timeline TBD
 - c. Approx. 1.5 acres
 - d. Incorporate permeable, water-friendly structure with art design
4. **Review CivicClerk Agenda Program**
 - a. Login for digital agenda
5. **Updates from sub-committees**
 - a. Policy
 - b. Maintenance & Budget-
 - i. \$5,000 given through CIP
 - ii. need to request additional funds on yearly basis
 - iii. Nishan Park (Baseball Monument) to reconnect with Park & Rec Dept.
 - iv. Discussed new chair and meeting time
6. **Adjourn**

Schofield Motioned to adjourn, Gnatzig Second. Time Adjourned: 6:53 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Next Meeting Date: TBD , at City Hall, 134 South Locust St, Reedsburg, WI 53959

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Williams, Secretary

**Reedsburg Arts Committee Grant
Final Report: 20 Poems Project
Reedsburg ArtsLink
8/27/2019**

The 20 Poems Project aimed to distill the essence of life in Reedsburg through poetic verse. This project called upon community members to either create or select a total of 20 short poems or excerpts of poems that reflected life in our community. Over 80 unique entries gathered via workshops and an online call for poetry. These were evaluated by a local selection panel who narrowed the field to around 30 poems. Final selections were made with the assistance of Madison-based poet Katrin Talbot. The final 20 poems, which included 16 original works and 4 already published poems were edited for grammar and spelling by a North Carolina-based poet with ties to Reedsburg, Philip Matthews.

The poems were then hand-lettered onto 9x9" signs by Baraboo-based lettering artist Morgan McArthur and placed around downtown Reedsburg. A tri-fold Map and Guide including a Poetry Scavenger Hunt was created by LK Design for distribution at the Reedsburg Chamber of Commerce and select businesses. The trifold includes illustrations by Reedsburg-based artists, Katie Schofield. The award for completing the Scavenger Hunt is a 3" *20 Poems* Sticker, available at the Reedsburg Chamber.

Our goals for this project included 1.) strengthening Reedsburg's identity and building community 2.) making poetry accessible to as many adults and children within and beyond our community as possible 3.) cultivating personal expression and promoting literacy 4.) creating a catalyst for additional literary arts activities within our community 5.) creating an interesting activity for visitors that will leave them with a positive impression of Reedsburg, and 6.) promoting pedestrian traffic in our downtown.

It is our feeling that this has been one of the most successful projects that Reedsburg ArtsLink has ever undertaken and that most of our goals were met or surpassed. This project identified and engaged a group of writers in and around Reedsburg who have engaged in additional local cultural activities including poetry readings during the Reedikulus Arts Crawl and 2nd Sundays at The Painted Forest in Valton. It also helped reinforce Reedsburg's identity. Reedsburg themes that emerged in the poetry submissions were black squirrels, industry, the impact of the Baraboo River on Reedsburg, both positive and negative, farming, gardening, the seasons, and historic buildings, among others. The high-quality, hand-lettered signs are an attractive and unique addition to downtown that engages the curious and creates an interesting activity for visitors. We worked closely with and will continue to have discussions with the Reedsburg Chamber of Commerce about how the 20 Poems Project is being received by visitors, and how we can promote the project to increase awareness and interest in the coming years.

This project was publicly dedicated at a reception held at the Chamber of Commerce on May 31.

Number served: Reedsburg's population.

Local students engaged in poetry workshops: 120 (60 RAHS students and 60 Pineview 5th graders)

Number of poets entering poems online: 45

Number attending Chamber Project Dedication and Reception: 50

Number attending April Poetry Reading at the Reedsburg Public Library: 50

Number of Guides distributed at the Chamber since June 1, 2019: 50

Local businesses supported: Printer, Sign maker, Independent artist, Graphic Design Company, Hardware store

Strengths and Weaknesses

The goals for the project outlined earlier were met or surpassed!

Although The 20 Poems Project project is being promoted through the Reedsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, we would like more people to know about it. ArtsLink will be looking at how the visibility of the project may be maximized going forward.

As we proceeded with the project, we spent a lot of time working with various city of Reedsburg staff and committees to identify locations and surfaces that we could hand-letter on. This was very time-consuming. About the time that we were applying for this grant, it became apparent there were not enough downtown locations that would be workable, so we needed to switch our plan to hand lettering onto signage. That signage needed to be sourced and designed, and a new plan for layouts developed by the lettering artist. This took time and we were concerned that we might not be able to finish our project on time. While the signs created a different outcome than we'd originally envisioned, it ultimately left us with a better selection of locations and a tighter, more uniform look that we are very happy with. We were also able to complete and dedicate the project on schedule.

How the Arts Committee Grant impacted the success of this project.

Reedsburg Arts Committee funding was critical to the success of this project! As a public art project, there is very little opportunity to earn income. Although we approached several local service organizations for funding, those requests were not responded to, or were declined. Having already asked the Sauk County Arts Committee for funding for another project, we were not qualified to make another request for the 20 Poems Project. Additional expenses were incurred for signage when we were not able to letter the poems directly onto existing downtown structures. This grant helped us finish the project on time and within a revised budget. Thank you!

Future plans for the Project

The Reedsburg Chamber of Commerce will continue to promote the project to their visitors with a display at their front counter. We feel that this project is worthy of recognition and intend to apply for state placemaking awards in the future. These awards help raise awareness of the project, raise awareness of the creative activities in our community overall. We will also continue to be in touch with the poets who submitted work concerning additional opportunities for them.

Budget

Overall, the final budget was about \$1000 over what was projected. This was largely due to an increase in in-kind donations to cover standard hand lettering costs plus increased materials costs related to the need for signage, and the labor of installing those which would've been very costly.