



CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, March 18, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Wolfe
Commissioner McAtee
Commissioner Schumann
Commissioner Goulet
Commissioner Ventour
Commissioner Seagraves
Commissioner Kirkpatrick
Commissioner Thompson
Commissioner Settles

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 4

A. [Arts Commission - 18 Feb 2021 - Action Minutes](#)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation by Andre Dowell, Chief of Artist Engagement, Sphinx Organization

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5 - 7

A. Downtown/Depot Town Summer Music Plans + Permitting Process
[Arts Commission Memo and Resolution](#)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Proposed Busking Policy to Support Street Art Performances
- B. Artist + Community Survey -- Artist Thrive Framework and Tremaine Foundation Funding Opportunity
- C. Public Art Process and Guidelines

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

X. UPDATES

- A. YCS Streetscape Banners
- B. Funding Resources / Partners
- C. Speaker Series to Build Awareness/Knowledge

XI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

April 15, 2021

XIV. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES

ARTS COMMISSION Meeting

7:00 PM - Thursday, February 18, 2021

Virtual

The ARTS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 7:00 PM, in the Virtual, with the following members present:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioner Wolfe	-City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner McAtee	-City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Schumann	-City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Goulet	-City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Ventour	-City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Seagraves	-City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Kirkpatrick	-City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Thompson	-excused late
Commissioner Settles	-Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County

3 AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Goulet asked to insert the item "Public Art Process and Guidelines" as item E. under Discussion.

Agenda was approved as amended.

Commissioner Schumann moved, seconded by Commissioner Seagraves. Approved: Yes - 8, No - 0, Absent - 1

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 21, 2021 minutes were approved.

Commissioner McAtee moved, seconded by Commissioner Seagraves. Approved: Yes - 8, No - 0, Absent- 1

5 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

No comments were made.

6 OLD BUSINESS

- a) YCS Student Art Streetscape Banners Project - Review and Recommendation of Approval of Banner Designs to City Council

Motion to present design formatting recommendations to the the graphic designers and to recommend the reviewed artwork for the YCS Student Art Streetscape Banners Project to the City of Ypsilanti City Council.

**Commissioner Seagraves moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick.
Approved: Yes - 9, No - 0.**

7 NEW BUSINESS

8 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Arts Commission Roles and Responsibilities under Ordinance 1342
- b) Setting Commission Priorities + Timelines
- c) Proposed Busking Policy to Support Street Art Performances
- d) Artist + Community Survey -- Artist Thrive Framework and Tremaine Foundation Funding Opportunity
- e) Public Art Process and Guidelines

9 UPDATES

- a) Funding Resources/Partners
- b) BLM Mural Project Update
- c) Speaker Series to Build Awareness/Knowledge

10 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

One Audience member spoke during audience participation.

11 PROPOSED BUSINESS

No proposed business.

12 NEXT MEETING DATE

March 18, 2021

13 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM



REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION
3/18/2021

For: Mayor and City Council

From: Christopher Jacobs, Community Development Manager

Subject: Special Event Programming on N Washington Street and E Cross

Background: On January 26, 2021, City Council approved Resolution No. 2021-014 authorizing the DDA Street Closures of North and South Washington Streets Downtown and E Cross Street in Depot Town for the purpose of outdoor shopping and dining. The resolution also permits live amplified music in the street closure areas only on Fridays and Saturdays until 10pm. This is the second consecutive year of summer long street closures which have been permitted due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Live music and entertainment in the street closure areas has been varied and the process for participation is not well understood. Fortunately, the City has a process to regulate this activity and staff recommends following that special event/noise permit policy in the street closure areas. With regard to noise levels the following rules apply:

Event coordinators are responsible for monitoring noise levels and ensuring compliance with the stated noise policy for events. Any substantiated complaints of violation of the noise permit may lead to the cancellation of the events for the rest of the season for that location.

1. Permissible Noise Levels – Maximum decibel levels shall not exceed 80 dB (A) from the hours of 10 a.m. through 10 p.m. Maximum decibel levels shall not exceed 75 dB (A) from the hours of 10 p.m. through 10 a.m. These measurements shall be taken from the Right of Way along the perimeters of the parks. Events in violation will be given (1) warning to correct violations. If a second violation occurs, then the event will be shut down. Repeated violations may lead to cancellation of all events in the future per locations. Event holders are responsible for any cost incurred to the Ypsilanti Police Department in this respect.

In 2020, the street closure music and entertainment were programmed primarily by business owners in the street closure area without using the special event noise/permit application process. It is important that we return to this formal and established process because the DDA is not authorized to make unilateral decisions on who may participate. News of this change between 2020 and 2021 has presented some new challenges and the DDA wishes to consult the newly formed Arts Commission about best practices to make 2021 a success.

Entities that would like to play music in the street closure areas must submit a noise permit application to the special event coordinator with the City and provide the required \$100 fee. Stakeholders in both Downtown and Depot Town are requesting the Arts Commission formally request to the City Manager to waive those fees and some have commented these fees are prohibitive and onerous, especially since it was not required in 2020.

With this new policy, we have the challenge of logistics. We see issues in the type of music, location of stage, who gets to book the act, who is named on the special event. We are looking to

Conclusion:

The DDA special event permit covers closing the streets from May 15-October 16 and permit music on Saturdays and Sundays until 10pm. That permit does not cover the noise permit fee for each night of performances, and it must be paid by the applicant or waived by the City Manager. The applicant is solely responsible for providing all equipment, power, and support for the performance and regulating the noise to comply with City Ordinances. We propose three application windows to process events for the following 30-60 days thereafter.

Therefore, the first application window shall commence on April 1, 2021 and last until April 30, 2021 to schedule all entertainment in the areas of street closure from May 15, 2021 – July 15, 2021.

From June 1, 2021-June 30, 2021 a second window shall open to accept applications for the period July 15, 2021 – September 15, 2021.

Finally, between August 1 2021 and August 31, 2021 a final application window shall open to accept applications for the period September 15, 2021-October 16, 2021.

These staggered windows of applications will help regulate participation and allow us to periodically review the policy to make sure it is planned and organized transparently and open to the public. Applications are processed on a first come, first serve basis and the organizers of each application will define each night's performances as they see fit within the established parameters of the City ordinance. Failure to comply will forfeit any application fees and may compromise an individual or groups ability to participate in the future.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of attached resolution

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: _____ COUNCIL AGENDA DATE: _____

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: _____

FISCAL SERVICES DIRECTOR APPROVAL: _____



Resolution No. 2021-
March 18, 2021

RESOLVED BY ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti wishes to facilitate safe outdoor shopping, dining, and entertainment opportunities in its commercial corridors and passed a resolution authorizing the closure of North and South Washington Street and E Cross for this purpose on January 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City regulates special events and noise permits through a process established by City Council and administered by the special events coordinator in YPD; and

WHEREAS, there is a \$100 fee established for each application which is considered onerous and discouraging to public participation by many of the stakeholders in our commercial districts; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission wishes to petition the City Manager to waive the fees associated with special event and noise permits in the areas of street closure to encourage public arts; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission has reviewed the special event and noise permit policy and affirms this to regulate participation in an organized and formal way; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Arts Commission of the City of Ypsilanti, that this resolution be provided to the City Manager as a formal petition for waiver of the special event and noise permit fees associated with entertainment in the areas of street closure and advises the special event / noise permit process be used to regulate entertainment provided by stakeholders in the districts.

OFFERED BY: _____

SUPPORTED BY: _____

YES: NO: ABSENT: VOTE: