



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, July 13, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner McAtee
Commissioner Seagraves
Commissioner Thompson
Commissioner Wolfe
Commissioner Baxter

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 4 A. [6-8-23 AC Minutes](#)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5 - 12 A. City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions Update
[Boards and Commissions](#)

13 B. Bylaw update for membership
[Membership update](#)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. UPDATES

A. Current AC Projects
B. Arts/Events around Ypsilanti

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

X. PROPOSED BUSINESS

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

August 10, 2023

XII. ADJOURNMENT



Minutes
CITY OF YPSILANTI
ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, June 8, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

I. CALL TO ORDER (6:33pm)

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Seagraves, McAtee, Thompson, Wolfe (6:40pm)

Absent: Baxter

Staff: Jekabson

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Staff requested that Election of Officers be moved to new business. Since posting the agenda, staff realized that June is the organizational month for the commission. Commissioner McAtee pointed out that the agenda states that the meeting is at 7pm and that is a mistake that should be changed.

Commissioner Seagraves moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner McAtee. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 3; No- 0; Absent - 2 (Baxter, Wolfe)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Seagraves moved, seconded by Commissioner McAtee to approve The March 9, 2023 minutes. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 3; No- 0; Absent - 2 (Baxter, Wolfe)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE -none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bylaw Update

Staff informed the commission that this item is to be reviewed this month, and needs to come back for a vote at the next meeting according to the commission's bylaws. The commission discussed changing the minimum membership from 5 to 3 in order to continue meeting if someone needs to drop the commission.

B. Election of officers - upcoming

Commissioner McAtee nominated Commissioner Thompson as Chair. Commissioner Thompson accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Wolfe motioned to appoint Commissioner Thompson as Chair of the Arts Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Seagraves. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 4; No- 0; Absent - 1 (Baxter)

Commissioner Thompson nominated Commissioner McAtee as Vice-Chair. Commissioner McAtee accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Seagraves motioned to appoint Commissioner Thompson as Chair of the Arts Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Wolfe. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 4; No- 0; Absent - 1 (Baxter)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Poet Laureate Program

Staff is in the process of creating an MOU with the Poet Laureate Program. Staff asked the Commission to review the MOU and provide input. Staff will be moving the document to the City Manager this upcoming week.

The Commission discussed expectations of the Poet Laureate and provided some input on the agreement.

B. Artist Survey RFQ

Staff updated that the RFQ had no applicants. Urged the commission to share amongst their networks. The commission discussed removing requirements for application such as the resume for the work. Staff will edit and reshare the RFQ.

VIII. UPDATES

A. Arts/Events around Ypsilanti

The Commission discussed Spark in the Park happening this weekend. Big names (Method Man, Red Man, and Ying Yang Twins etc) will be performing at Riverside Park.

Embracing our Differences and Ypsi Pride was a success. Juneteenth celebration is coming up.

The Gallery at Stone and Spoon has their annual Queer art exhibition opening on June 9th at 5pm.

IX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE -none.

X. PROPOSED BUSINESS -none.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE July 13, 2023

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:48pm by Commissioner McAtee, supported by Commissioner Wolfe. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Yes - 4; No- 0; Absent - 1 (Baxter)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

July 11, 2023

BOARDS AND COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE

- Council Members King, Simmons, and Sweet
- Meetings on Both May and June 9, 2023

ADVISORY BODIES

- Human Relations Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Police Advisory Commission
- Arts Commission
- Sustainability Commission
- Board of Ethics

STRATEGIES

- Remove Open Meetings Act Requirement
 - Resolution No. 2009-242A – requires all advisory bodies be subject to OMA (passed 4-3)
- Create Boards and Commission Funding
 - Assign tasks during goal sessions
 - Task specific budgeting
- Onboarding
 - Training twice a year (Early Spring and Fall)
 - Create a YouTube Video to Supplement training
 - Commissions assess skills they are lacking

STRATEGIES CONTINUED

- Boards and Commissions Merge
 - Mission Specific
 - Police Advisory and Human Relations
 - Parks and Recreation and Arts
- Empower public bodies through resource allocation and involve them more in legislative process.
 - Each body will present their annual report to Council.
- Field Day
 - Ward against Ward
 - Could be used as recruitment
 - Parks and Recreation Could Design Event
 - Involve Ypsilanti Community Schools and Eastern Michigan University.

RATIONALE

- Police Advisory and Human Relations Commission
 - Both focus on the human condition and areas of inequity.
 - Two staff liaisons
 - Police Chief and HR Director – only attending meetings specific to their job function.
- Parks and Recreation and Arts Commission
 - Both have a similar focus on recreation, and much of what Arts approves are in the parks.

MEMBERSHIP/NEXT STEPS

- Merged commissions will have no more than 11 members, with no more than 3 non-resident members.
- Council will pass legislation merging commissions, the commissions will then draft the amendments to combine the ordinances.
- Commissions will have the ability to meet virtually, and create an environment based on dialog, and less on the hierarchical structure of a board and commission.

TIMELINE

- July 25th - First Reading of ordinance merge
- August 1st – Second Reading and approve resolution removing OMA requirements for Advisory Bodies, except for Board of Ethics.
- August 31st – Ordinances take effect.
- September – New bodies will meet and begin discussion on potential amendments to enabling ordinances.

Article I. Ypsilanti Art Commission

Sec. 79-2 - Creation; composition; appointment.

The Ypsilanti Art Commission is created and shall consist of not less than five and not more than nine members, and two non-voting youth members appointed by the mayor, subject to the confirmation of city council.

([Ord. No. 1342](#), § 1, 10-1-2019)

Sec. 79-5. - Membership.

(a) The YAC shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine voting members, and two non-voting youth members nominated by the mayor and approved by city council. The city manager or her designee shall be a nonvoting ex-officio member of YAC. Appointments of the voting members shall be made from candidates who have the following expertise or affiliation: (1) Persons who, insofar as possible, have experience and/or an interest in the placement, creation, or design of public art. ([Ord. No. 1342](#), § 1, 10-1-2019)

Recommended motion:

Motion that the Arts Commission recommend the following updates in the City of Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances:

1. Sec. 79-2 - Creation; composition; appointment.

“The Ypsilanti Art Commission is created and shall consist of not less than **five three** and not more than nine members, and two non-voting youth members appointed by the mayor, subject to the confirmation of city council.”

2. Sec. 79-5. (a) - Membership.

“The YAC shall consist of not less than **five three** nor more than nine voting members, and two non-voting youth members nominated by the mayor and approved by city council. The city manager or her designee shall be a nonvoting ex-officio member of YAC. Appointments of the voting members shall be made from candidates who have the following expertise or affiliation: (1) Persons who, insofar as possible, have experience and/or an interest in the placement, creation, or design of public art.”