

## Arts and Culture Commission Special Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2025

Pat Clower called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with Pat Clower, Greg Peerbolte, Megan Verbic, and Monica Sweeney. Hayden Minor was absent.

Verbal Roll Call: ALL AYES

Also present was Staff Liaison Melissa Mazintas. The Summer Intern Georgia Sweeney was also present.

### Public Comment:

#### **Sights Slips and Sounds Fundraiser:**

M Sweeney started with a recap of a meeting with Verbic earlier in the week.

M Sweeney asked Mazintas how the liquor licensing worked and she responded.

Megan has two drawn out layouts for the commission to look at. M Sweeney asked Peerbolte about tables at his other job. He confirmed. Clower has a means of transportation. The commission discussed table layout further.

M Sweeney brought up the Diamond and Denim event and their ticket prices and how they go about fundraising. M Sweeney emphasized the math of budget and how ticket prices impact the revenue and expenses.

Mazintas detailed the given budget to the commission and totaled it around \$7,000.

M Sweeney wants to increase the price of the ticket by a couple dollars, she still wants to keep it relatively low. She wants to try and do a price increase based on time and wants the commission to think it over.

Verbic wants to make sure the inclusions of tickets are outlined clearly.

The commission discusses how the wine glass plays a role in budget and the inclusion of the ticket.

M Sweeney wants to make the deadline for the start of call for entry July 14th. G Sweeney interrupts and talks about her work with Entrythingy and how she set up the platform. Mazintas emphasizes the importance of getting the Entrythingy advertised ASAP. She clarifies the proposed deadlines as October 1st for art submissions and October 14th to start the online auction.

G Sweeney displays the Entrythingy platform on the computer display.

G Sweeney asks how many pieces are allowed to be submitted by an artist. The commission has varying responses.

Clower brings up that it is standard practice to give the artist 60% of the commission.

Mazintas clarifies that Entrythingy is the most important task at the moment. She has made a list for places to mail the flyer and hand deliver. The commission gives places to send the flyer additionally.

Clower mentions the donation aspect of the art pieces and how that works. The commission discussed further.

Verbic inquires if there is a theme. The commission discusses and concludes that the theme should be centered around the nature of Channahon.

Clower asks Verbic if she is submitting a piece and she is unsure. M Sweeney says it would be cool to auction off an inclusion of the elementary school mural that Verbic is creating.

Verbic announces the theme, Sips Sights and Sounds an Evening Celebrating Art in Nature. The commission agrees.

G Sweeney continues the Entrythingy presentation. The commission asks questions and discussion follows.

M Sweeney passes around the layout sketches.

M Sweeney brings up the possibility of doing a live auction. The auctioneer is a Channahon resident. It might bring excitement to the event.

G Sweeney continues her presentation.

M Sweeney asks if Entrything is free and Mazintas answers yes.

Mazintas recenters the conversation around Onecause prices. She mentions how her and G Sweeney sat through another sales call with a competing company and they detailed their experience. G Sweeney was not satisfied with the company and recommended Onecause. The commission discusses the logistics of Onecause and the qualities it has. Topics included prices, fees, ease of use, aesthetics, and features. Mazintas confirms that the fee is for an entire year.

Peerbolte makes a motion to approve the purchase of a Onecause subscription for \$500 + 5%. Seconded by Verbic.

Clower wants to ask the branding company to donate engraved wine glasses. The commission wonders if they should put the new logo on the glass. The commission thinks it is a bad idea due to the controversy. The commission agrees to come up with an event design to put on the glass so it can be approved by Sydney Thompson.

M Sweeney asks about sponsors. The commission discusses how the sponsors would be represented at the event.

Verbic wants to put the year on the glass to create a memorabilia item.

G Sweeney asks Mazintas if sponsors can be put on the Onecause event. Mazintas was not sure, but G Sweeney thinks it is a definite possibility.

Clower wants to ask Exxon Mobil to pay for the Hors-devours. The commission discusses the best route possible to convince sponsors to donate.

Clower infers about decor that Verbic and M Sweeney want. M Sweeney wants quiet elegance. Verbic wants tinier pumpkins for the table and subtle, less is more decor. Clower wants to get clarification on the decor so she can ask her friend about a pumpkin donation. Verbic will send inspo pictures.

M Sweeney announces that she is meeting with the owner of the Hive on July 9th.

Verbic asks the commission if wine is ok to be the only drink at the event. The commission agrees that a full bar may be too much. G Sweeney mentions making a signature mocktail and Verbic liked the idea. Verbic announces that Bishop Hill will not do cocktails. Peerbolte asks how the commission would get their hands on other liquor. The commission discusses further. The commission brings up what happens with the money and who takes the money.

Verbic brings up a topic switch about the music selection. Verbic has a jazz band called Sam Burns. They talk about the price and logistics. The commission compares the two band options. M Sweeney wants to hear the band and Verbic provides the link. M Sweeney highlights the band she is connected to. M Sweeney says that the band brings their own equipment and she can play 2.5 hours. M Sweeney continues with details.

Mazintas brings up the option between a live auction and the online auction. M Sweeney brings up the live auctioneer should be the raffle portion.

Mazintas asked if the raffles should be included in the online auction. M Sweeney mentioned her experience at the Minooka Choir Craft Fair and her opinions based on that.

Clower mentioned the cost of paying the auctioneer.

G Sweeney plays the music from Sam Burns to listen to. Mazintas asked if the commission wanted just jazz or vocals. M Sweeney continues to give details about True Vinyl band. Mazintas asked if they could hear M Sweeney's band.

Clower mentions the event may not have time to fit the Madrigals. She asks how many singers there are in the group. They discuss the logistics of Madrigals. They decide for the madrigals to come around 5:45-6:15.

Mazintas said if there are extra tickets the commission can sell at the door.

M Sweeney mentions that trade between other events/organizations could be possible to benefit from each other.

Verbic asks if the commission is ready to decide the band and they decide to think about it for the next meeting.

M Sweeney congratulated Verbic and Mazintas for doing such a good job with everything.

M Sweeney asks if anyone is coming with her to meet the Hive. G Sweeney agreed.

M Sweeney starts a discussion about catering. The commission agrees that the Hive is a great option because it is local and that is what the commission is all about.

Verbic leaves the meeting.

The commission repeats a discussion about logistics for artists dropoff logistics.

Raffle baskets will be determined at a later time when the commission can nail down further details.

Clower brings up scholarship opportunities at the Minooka Community High School.

Clower starts a discussion about forms that she is going to create for a raffle basket. Peerbolte offers a free tour. M Sweeney offers a health optic basket.

Clower mentions that she is trying to figure out logistics and how much she should ask a sponsor. G Sweeney thinks the commission should go all out and focus on this event before anything else. Everyone else agrees.

The commission brainstorms ideas for the raffle baskets.

Peerbolte thinks we should put a recommendation on minimum bids for each piece of art, it is the artist's decision but ultimately it is the commission's decision.

The commission moves on to advertising and discussion follows. M Sweeney asks for a banner on the front of the VOC website. Mazintas said it has to go through Sydney Thompson.

Repeated conversation about the app Onecause continues.

Clower asks if the commission has to pay for a ticket. The commission says no.

Clower asks if it is too early to ask the high school for help.

M Sweeney brings up Bishop Hill and the number of pours included with a ticket.

Peerbolte mentions that we still don't know how other alcohol will be purchased.

Discussion followed.

The question on age minimum was debated.

M Sweeney brought up the idea passed around about a backdrop for pictures and a photographer/videos.

M Sweeney brought up the idea of an "art auction assistant" badge to help verify payments and deal the art. She also wants the beta club to babysit kids during the event, an idea for the commission to think about it.

Peerbolte asked if we are going to hire a photographer.

G Sweeney mentions that you can ask highschoolers to come take pictures.

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 9th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Peerbolte made a motion to adjourn at 5:59 p.m. Clower seconded. All ayes approved the adjournment.

Submitted by Georgia Sweeney