

**Arts Commission  
of the City of Onalaska**

Monday, July 13, 2020

1

1 The meeting of the Arts Commission of the City of Onalaska was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on  
2 Monday, July 13, 2020. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and posted at City  
3 Hall.

4  
5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Mayor Kim Smith, Ald. Dan Stevens,  
6 Joyce Diveley, Deb Carlson, Dani McAlister, Linda Lyche, LuAnn Roth

7  
8 Also Present: Ald. Diane Wulf, Onalaska High School student Claudia Delgado (advisory)

9  
10 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

11  
12 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by LuAnn, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as  
13 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

14  
15 On voice vote, motion carried.

16  
17 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

18  
19 Joyce called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion of the  
20 meeting.

21  
22 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

23  
24 **Item 4 – Election of:**

- 25  
26 A. Chair  
27 B. Vice Chair  
28 C. Secretary

29  
30 Motion by Deb to nominate and elect Dani McAlister as Chair of the Arts Commission.

31  
32 Dani said she enjoyed her role as Vice Chair.

33  
34 Joyce said she would not object to continuing to serve as Chair, but she noted she is not in the  
35 City of Onalaska in January, February, and early March.

36  
37 Deb asked Joyce if the commission is meeting quarterly.

38  
39 Joyce told Deb the commission will meet monthly if a project is started and commission  
40 members feel the need to meet monthly, adding she does not believe the commission is currently  
41 on a specific schedule and it will meet on an as-needed basis.

42

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43 Linda told Joyce she has no objections to Joyce continuing to serve as Chair if she wishes to do  
44 so, noting the committee still is finding its way as far as what it wants to do.

45

46 Joyce asked Dani if she wants to serve as Chair.

47

48 Dani told Joyce she does not mind leaving things as they are.

49

50 LuAnn said she is willing to continue serving as Secretary.

51

52 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Linda, to nominate and elect Joyce Diveley as Chair, Dani  
53 McAlister as Vice Chair, and LuAnn Roth as Secretary of the Arts Commission.

54

55 On voice vote, motion carried.

56

57 Ald. Stevens suggested that the commission first discuss Item No. 6 as some of Item No. 5 might  
58 be relevant to the outcome of Item No. 6.

59

60 Joyce told commission members Ald. Jim Olson had written a \$3,000 check as a donation to the  
61 Arts Commission, with the donation serving as a starting point for any type of program  
62 commission members would like to have. Joyce said she will be sending Ald. Olson a formal  
63 thank-you letter, but she asked LuAnn if she could send him a formal thank-you letter. Joyce  
64 told commission members she had spoken with Financial Services Director Fred Buehler about  
65 the Ald. Olson's donation, noting he had written the check to the Onalaska Enhancement  
66 Foundation, the organization through which all the funding for the sculpture at the Great River  
67 Landing had been run. Joyce told commission members Fred had told her the commission would  
68 have to apply to the OEF to see if its members would allow the Arts Commission to utilize the  
69 OEF as the 501(c)(3). Joyce said Fred had cautioned her approval is not guaranteed, noting she  
70 has not cashed the check as she is unsure of how the commission will proceed.

71

72 Ald. Stevens told commission members part of the reason he wanted to first discuss Item No. 6  
73 was to determine what type of mechanism could be installed so that the commission could  
74 receive donations. Ald. Stevens said that while Ald. Olson had made a very generous donation,  
75 the commission currently does not have a way to utilize it, nor does it have a way to deposit the  
76 funds. Ald. Stevens told commission members he had met earlier Monday with both Mayor K.  
77 Smith and Fred, and he said there might be "obstacles" that make it difficult for the commission  
78 to receive funds. Ald. Stevens said there are "systemic problems" with how the commission is  
79 currently organized, and he suggested making some changes and meeting with Fred and City  
80 Attorney Amanda Jackson to discuss ways of circumventing the current challenges. Ald.  
81 Stevens said, "We have some ideas, but I think it would up to both this commission and then  
82 getting the blessing of the Council and the Mayor to send this through so that we can be effective  
83 going forward." Ald. Stevens asked Joyce to hold onto the check and told her to ask Ald. Olson  
84 to reissue the check under a different name.

Reviewed 7/22/2020 by LuAnn Roth

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85  
86 Joyce told commission members she had approached Centering Onalaska, which operates as a  
87 501(c)(3), in the fall of 2019 and asked if its members would be interested in working with the  
88 Arts Commission as a liaison group and assisting with finances. However, Joyce said Centering  
89 Onalaska representatives told her they were not interested in doing so, and she told commission  
90 members she thinks Centering Onalaska representatives were concerned that due to the Great  
91 River Landing sculpture project there would be a significant amount of funding coming through,  
92 thus changing Centering Onalaska's tax structure if large sums of funding are involved. Joyce  
93 suggested that the commission next discuss Item No. 6 and said perhaps Mayor K. Smith might  
94 have ideas regarding how the Arts Commission may establish a separate entity. Joyce said it  
95 then would become necessary to establish another 501(c)(3).

96  
97 **Item 6 – Discussion regarding setting up Onalaska Friends of the Arts (to help with**  
98 **fundraising, ideas and community help/involvement)**

99  
100 Deb told Joyce a 501(c)(3) had been established for “Celebrating Her Heart Health,” and she said  
101 the process was not time-consuming. Deb also said she assumes the commission needs approval  
102 from Mayor K. Smith and the Common Council to establish its own 501(c)(3).

103  
104 Mayor K. Smith told commission members that while there are many individuals in the  
105 community who are passionate about different endeavors and who contribute to making  
106 Onalaska a wonderful place to live, there always are obstacles to face as the city attempts to  
107 make its vision a reality. Mayor K. Smith said former Mayor Joe Chilsen had the vision for the  
108 Arts Commission and told commission members she is not sure what his vision was. Mayor K.  
109 Smith said it is time for commission members to take control of what their vision for this  
110 commission is, and she told them they have many good ideas. Mayor K. Smith said it was her  
111 understanding any funding the commission received would be routed automatically through the  
112 OEF. Mayor K. Smith told commission members Fred told her that because this is a city  
113 commission, he has the ability to create an account into which any funding the commission  
114 receives may be deposited. Mayor K. Smith said she does not believe having an account is the  
115 challenge; rather, it is more about what the Arts Commission wishes to do.

116  
117 Mayor K. Smith said she had told Amanda several members of the commission wish to  
118 participate, which she said is counterintuitive to a committee, which has the purpose of its  
119 members discussing items about which the public is informed. Mayor K. Smith said, “You’re  
120 really not allowed to go off to the side with half of the group to work on something individually  
121 and come back. That’s where the difficulty comes, and it really seems like as much as for some  
122 reason being in a committee seems to be the ‘in thing,’ it really seems like being a group like the  
123 ‘Onalaska Friends of the Arts’ is more in line with what I am interpreting the vision of this group  
124 to me. ... At this point we have a committee. It can be a committee. We just need as a group to  
125 come together and see, what is our vision, what do we want to do, and which of these two  
126 models would fit better toward the goals we are trying to achieve? I’ll help no matter what. I’m

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127 on board.”

128

129 Joyce said there had been concerns during the Great River Landing sculpture project regarding  
130 whether or not there should be an official City of Onalaska committee for the project. Joyce  
131 said, “We voted no because there were too many hoops that had to be jumped through. There  
132 were too many things we couldn’t do. And I do have to say, Joe Chilsen had said to me at one  
133 point that sculpture probably wouldn’t be there today if we had been a city entity because there  
134 would have been so many other things we would have had to have done. LuAnn and I talked  
135 about it at the very beginning of this committee and said, ‘Do we try this and if it doesn’t work  
136 do we disband or what do we do?’ That’s kind of where I’m at. ... It’s just the way the  
137 government works; I understand that. But let’s say we came up with a great idea tonight and we  
138 said, ‘Let’s go. You guys get together next week.’ You can’t do any of that because everything  
139 has to be a sanctioned meeting. The next step would be you’d have to go to the Common  
140 Council and then they think about it and then it’s another month, and then you have to go to the  
141 OEF and there’s another month. I think you’re a long way down the line before you ever really  
142 get anything flying.

143

144 Having said that, you’re still going to have to get approvals from the city, and I understand that  
145 for any big thing that goes on in the city I think we would want to have the blessing of the  
146 Common Council. But I’m kind of open to either way. I think from the very beginning ... I’m  
147 with you, Kim. I think Joe’s vision was that we get an arts thing going. But whether or not it  
148 should be a city committee, I don’t know.”

149

150 LuAnn told commission members she has more questions that comments, stating she does not  
151 know the restrictions associated with being a committee. LuAnn she understands that everything  
152 must be done committee meeting by committee meeting, and no actions may be delegated  
153 outside of the committee. LuAnn asked if that is the primary disadvantage of being a function of  
154 the city and a commission.

155

156 Joyce told LuAnn she believes that is one of the disadvantages, and she said she believes the  
157 time element is another factor, noting that commission members may not discuss anything again  
158 for another month. Joyce said committee members cannot come together ad hoc and discuss  
159 what they believe should happen.

160

161 Mayor K. Smith said she believes the issue is with the dialog and the work groups. Mayor K.  
162 Smith also said if commission members were to have an idea this evening pertaining to, for  
163 example, fundraising, that idea would not be in a solid form, noting it would be necessary to  
164 write out that idea as it would need to go before the Common Council, which then would have to  
165 approve it. Mayor K. Smith noted the agenda for Tuesday evening’s Council meeting is already  
166 out, and she said the commission would need to wait one month to begin, pending Council  
167 approval.

168

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169 Linda said the restrictions do have an impact on some of the things commission members want to  
170 accomplish, especially if they want to work with the schools, city facilities, and the community.  
171 Linda said, “We’re going to have some challenges as far as, we didn’t get that in on time, so  
172 that’s not going to happen. I see some negatives to it, but I don’t know. If we don’t go as a  
173 commission, then [are we] just a committee like the sculpture was? I see plusses and minuses.  
174 Maybe we need to go back and look at, what is our mission? What do we want to do, and does it  
175 fit?”

176

177 Deb asked if the Great River Landing Sculpture Committee is still intact.

178

179 Joyce said it was a one-time instance, and she told commission members she was a bit surprised  
180 when former Mayor Chilsen chose all of them to serve because she thought he would keep the  
181 sculpture committee intact “because everybody had done their part and kind of moved this right  
182 along. This is a whole new ballgame.”

183

184 Ald. Stevens said that when commission members are looking at the difference between being a  
185 self-governed entity and a commission that is part of the city, he does not see many advantages  
186 to being part of the city aside from the fact the commission has the ability and the resources to  
187 meet, and the city may operate Zoom for the commission. Ald. Stevens said it might make a  
188 difference if public financing were available. However, Ald. Stevens also said that given the  
189 state of the budgets he would not count on public funding going regularly toward the arts.  
190 Further, Ald. Stevens said the way that the mission was set up on the website, the commission is  
191 to seek non-city funding for its advancement. Ald. Stevens said, “From the funding standpoint,  
192 that’s problematic where we’re on our own anyway. When we add that to the fact that as a city-  
193 owned entity, we would have to get permission for each and every action that we did for  
194 fundraising. If we want to have a big dinner or do some sort of project or a raffle or something  
195 like that, the Common Council would have to vote on it versus if we were our own entity, then  
196 we can do it.

197

198 Like the sculpture project, we can still liaison with the school. We can liaison with Centering  
199 Onalaska, with the city. Any other organization we can still be part of that. Now we know the  
200 process; for example, with the sculpture we know we’re still going to have to get the city  
201 approval anyway, which doesn’t matter if we’re part of the commission or not. I think there are  
202 some benefits to having its own autonomy. If Deb has experience setting up a 501(c)(3) – that  
203 being one of the chief obstacles – if there’s not much to it, that may make a lot of sense.”

204

205 Ald. Stevens noted former Mayor Chilsen, who resigned in December 2019 due to health  
206 concerns, had formed the Arts Commission, and also that he believes the commission’s members  
207 were left to determine which direction to take. Ald. Stevens also pointed out there is no funding  
208 mechanism, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, “we’re not really empowered to really move  
209 anything forward over this last year. It’s been kind of a difficult year.” Ald. Stevens referred to  
210 the commission’s mission on the website, and read the following: “[*The Arts Commission*]

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211 *encourages artistic activities and initiating cultural programs that integrate, support, and*  
212 *advance arts and culture as an essential part of life in Onalaska. Works closely with the*  
213 *community to provide exhibition and performance spaces and organize events where residents in*  
214 *Onalaska can experience a diversity of arts and culture. Works as an advocate for the arts by*  
215 *commenting on policies and plans of the City and by seeking non-City funding for its*  
216 *advancement. Promotes the arts, cultural activity and economic development.” Ald. Stevens*  
217 *told commission members they can accomplish all these goals regardless of whether the Arts*  
218 *Commission is in its current form or “Friends of the Arts in Onalaska.” Ald. Stevens said that*  
219 *while the mission is noble, “if we’re on our own anyway, why not run with it?”*

220

221 Ald. Stevens said that when he was initially crafting this document, he thought that “if we had  
222 our own entity that the commission would act as kind of the steering committee and as a liaison  
223 between the city and the Friends [of the Arts in Onalaska]. The Friends would be a source of  
224 ideas for projects. We could create members. Members could maybe vote on the projects that  
225 had the most merit, then we could bring those good projects to the city and try to get approval,  
226 then go back to the Friends and work on trying to fund the mechanisms. My vision was to make  
227 this an engine that would drive our goals forward once we determined [which] projects we  
228 wanted to do. We figure out if we have the city’s blessing. We figure out if we have the will or  
229 the consensus of the art patrons in the city, and then we bring them together and make it  
230 happen.” Ald. Stevens said it also would make it easier to set up fundraising events, programs,  
231 and different initiatives, and he told commission members he wishes to bring an art festival into  
232 the city. Ald. Stevens said individuals who wanted to be a part of the Friends of the Arts in  
233 Onalaska could do so with a membership fee, and paying a larger fee would allow individuals to  
234 attend a special event such as a dinner. Ald. Stevens said everyone would be allowed to vote on  
235 what they believe are the best projects. Further, Ald. Stevens said there would a pool of  
236 individuals who could assist in helping the city reach its goals and advancing its mission.

237

238 Ald. Stevens said, “How this is structured, it seems like it’s ... by the sheer fact it is a  
239 commission, it makes it very difficult for us to receive money in, and then execute on whatever it  
240 is we want to do. It’s for that reason I’d love to get more of an opinion from our legal  
241 department. But ultimately, if there was a separate entity that was maybe similar to the sculpture  
242 or similar to Centering Onalaska, we may find it easier to operate and do what we want to do.  
243 Whether that mission is the mission or whether that changes, that’s all a matter of discussion.”

244

245 Dani said she favors the concept of seeing the commission change into something else, one in  
246 which meetings would be more casual, the process could be expedited, and much more could be  
247 accomplished. Dani said meetings then could be held more frequently.

248

249 Claudia said she believes the public input aspect of a different form of the commission would be  
250 much stronger, noting there are individuals at Onalaska High School who have great ideas for  
251 things to do throughout the city. Claudia said she would like to hear their ideas, and perhaps  
252 they could be put into action.

Reviewed 7/22/2020 by LuAnn Roth

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253  
254 Deb said she agrees with Dani regarding “the less structure and control and the process we would  
255 have to go through,” and she asked Ald. Stevens if the Friends of the Arts in Onalaska is  
256 currently active, or if that is what he is proposing this commission become.

257  
258 Ald. Stevens told Deb he is proposing the Friends of the Arts in Onalaska and said the group,  
259 which currently does not exist, does not have to bear that name. Ald. Stevens said he has three  
260 different models: Onalaska Friends of the Arts, Friends of the Onalaska Arts, and Friends of the  
261 Arts in Onalaska. However, Ald. Stevens said the group may call itself whatever it wishes.

262  
263 Mayor K. Smith noted she had spoken with both Amanda and Planning Manager Katie  
264 Aspenson, and she said some of the art projects that were under discussion or consideration had  
265 to do with being placed in public right-of-ways. Mayor K. Smith said she had expressed concern  
266 that one advantage the commission might lose by not being a city commission would be the  
267 ability to place art projects in city right-of-ways. However, Mayor K. Smith also said both  
268 Amanda and Katie had told her that is not an issue, adding that any project would have to come  
269 before the Common Council for approval regardless of whether or not the Arts Commission is a  
270 City of Onalaska commission. Mayor K. Smith said, “We still want to be a part of this. It isn’t  
271 like we’re trying to get separated from it. We are just trying to figure out how can we be the  
272 most productive.”

273  
274 Joyce noted Xcel Energy had stated no artwork could be created on its electrical boxes, and she  
275 said she had suggested having artwork on private property such as Sue Kolve’s Salon and Day  
276 Spa and David Reay’s. Joyce said the next step would be to approach the private parties who  
277 would follow suit. Joyce suggested continuing as more of a grassroots group and said  
278 commission members must decide if the commission should continue as a city commission.  
279 Joyce referred to Ald. Stevens’ comments that there could be both a city commission and a non-  
280 city entity, and she said she is not sure that would be necessary as she believes that would be  
281 redundant.

282  
283 Linda said based on what she has heard, commission members would like to continue as a  
284 grassroots, independent committee as it would give them more flexibility, productivity, and  
285 creativity. Linda said it is crucial for commission members to stay connected with the city, and  
286 she told commission members she believes it is logical for the commission to be a grassroots  
287 committee. Linda asked how this commission may be dissolved if its members choose to be a  
288 grassroots entity.

289  
290 Ald. Stevens told Linda this would be referred to the Common Council with the recommendation  
291 to disband the Arts Commission. However, Ald. Stevens also said he believes it is important that  
292 before the commission takes that action, the new organization should be in place, or there should  
293 be an initial meeting to determine the level of interest for people to attend. Ald. Stevens said it  
294 appears that Mayor K. Smith and Ald. Olson would be interested, adding he believes there would

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295 be buy-in from members within city government to make this work. Ald. Stevens told  
296 commission members he would commit to being an active participant, and he reiterated he  
297 believes an item recommending disbanding the Arts Commission should be referred to the  
298 Common Council. Ald. Stevens also reiterated the new organization first should set up a  
299 meeting, establish its bylaws and goals, and determine how to proceed.

300  
301 Mayor K. Smith told commission members the item would not appear on the Council's agenda  
302 until its August 11 meeting.

303  
304 Ald. Stevens said the new organization could begin Tuesday if it chose to do so and told  
305 commission members they did not have to wait until the Arts Commission had been dissolved  
306 for the new committee to exist.

307  
308 Deb asked if the Arts Commission currently follows city commission bylaws and guidelines.

309  
310 Joyce told Deb the commission must follow Robert's Rules of Order, and she said she is not  
311 allowed to send an email to commission members unless it is sanctioned through the city as  
312 anything the commission discusses must be made public. Joyce said this made it difficult to  
313 communicate with anyone.

314  
315 Joyce referred to the Great River Landing sculpture project and said she believes no one thought  
316 the project would come to fruition due to the amount of funding needed. Joyce said she believes  
317 the fact the Great River Landing sculpture project had been successful will lead to individuals  
318 who believe in the arts providing financial assistance. Joyce said, "I think we can maybe do this  
319 again and set up our own committee."

320  
321 Claudia suggested reaching out to Onalaska School District teachers or retired teachers who  
322 would be willing to showcase their students' work.

323  
324 Mayor K. Smith told commission members she had spoken to the art teachers in the Onalaska  
325 School District and said she will be reporting on that later in the agenda. Mayor K. Smith  
326 addressed Joyce's comments regarding the Great River Landing sculpture, telling her she  
327 believes councilmembers did believe the sculpture would come to fruition and people in the  
328 community would provide assistance. Mayor K. Smith told commission members there always  
329 are adverse viewpoints in the community, and she said it is important to make it clear that the  
330 city will not be providing any financial assistance when there is a significant project and  
331 individuals are attempting to fundraise for it. Mayor K. Smith told commission members she,  
332 Ald. Stevens, and Joyce could work together and determine what a seamless transition would be  
333 for the commission. Commission members then would take the next step.

334  
335 Joyce asked if it would be possible for commission members to meet not as the Arts  
336 Commission, but rather as individuals, the week of July 19-25.

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337  
338 Mayor K. Smith told Joyce it would be possible if commission members limit the discussion to  
339 forming a Friends of the Arts group, and they cannot talk specifically about these projects that  
340 are on today's agenda.

341  
342 **Item 5 – Discussion regarding fundraising**

343  
344 Ald. Stevens said he has some thoughts regarding fundraising, but he purposely will not discuss  
345 them at this time. Ald. Stevens said those thoughts can be discussed amongst members of the  
346 new organization, should it choose to exist.

347  
348 **Item 7 – Review of current art projects and discussion regarding potential new art projects**

349  
350 Joyce said she would like to see the city have public art pieces that become more long-term and  
351 attract visitors to the community. Joyce noted she had sent pictures she had drawn that were  
352 included in the meeting agenda, and she asked if the commission should or should not discuss  
353 them if there will be a new committee.

354  
355 Mayor K. Smith invited Joyce to discuss her pictures as this item already is on the agenda.

356  
357 Joyce told commission members she had called former Mayor Chilsen regarding something she  
358 calls "The Pop-Up Art Project." Joyce told commission members she had spoken to someone in  
359 Appleton about a citywide art project in which artwork was wrapped around electrical boxes.  
360 Joyce said she had been thinking about an art project in which individuals would paint canvases  
361 that would be dipped in resin and placed throughout the city. Joyce suggested themes such as  
362 wildlife or recreational activities. Joyce also suggested to Claudia that she and her friends  
363 choose a theme such as nature, and they each would paint something related to that theme that is  
364 important to them. The three paintings then would be placed together at a certain location for a  
365 year or two years. Joyce told committee members such an endeavor would be cost-effective, and  
366 it would not have to be long-term. Joyce said she is certain that city businesses would be willing  
367 to place the artwork on their respective properties.

368  
369 Deb, who serves as Explore La Crosse's Director of Membership and Grants, noted there is a  
370 focus is on the Great River Landing and suggested the activities that could be highlighted include  
371 biking, hiking, the Great River State Trail and the La Crosse River State Trail, kayaking,  
372 rollerblading, and logrolling. Deb also suggested highlighting the sculpture.

373  
374 Joyce asked Claudia if she believes students would welcome the opportunity to paint something  
375 if their work was put on display in the community.

376  
377 Claudia said she believes there would be interest, telling Joyce she believes at least 50 to 75  
378 percent of the students at Onalaska High School take an art class. Claudia notes she is taking an

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379 AP art class during the 2020-21 school year, and she told Joyce she believes there are students in  
380 the class who would be willing to help if she asked them.

381  
382 Ald. Stevens noted he used to reside in Racine and said there was a program there in which high  
383 school students were employed as artists as part of a summer program. Ald. Stevens said  
384 perhaps the City of Onalaska could have a similar program in which some of the more promising  
385 art students could create pieces of art that would be placed around the city. The city then could  
386 hold an auction after the art had been displayed for a certain amount of time, and the funds could  
387 be utilized for an art scholarship or other art projects.

388  
389 Joyce showed commission members a drawing with the words to a poem written by Judy  
390 Kirkpatrick, and she said she believes it should become a piece of art at the Great River Landing  
391 as the poem was sung to the tune of John Denver's song "Take Me Home, Country Roads" at the  
392 sculpture's dedication. Joyce also suggested having a piece of art with the city's name by which  
393 visitors could take a photograph based on something she had seen in Mexico. Joyce noted there  
394 once had been a discussion about placing chairs or benches in the public area around the  
395 sculpture at the Great River Landing and suggested having individuals design the seating.

396  
397 Deb noted there is a large, yellow Adirondack chair in Captiva, Florida that can seat three or four  
398 people and is surrounded by flowers and bushes. Deb said perhaps a similar chair could have an  
399 Onalaska scene behind it.

400  
401 LuAnn suggested having different artists paint a scene on the chair, which would include a  
402 plaque that says #onalaska or #loveonalaska.

403  
404 Linda told commission members there is a park in Puerto Vallarta with benches that were created  
405 by artists.

406  
407 Joyce said the benches of which Linda spoke were built out of cement, and individuals could pay  
408 to have the bench designed with their name on it. Joyce said individuals were given the  
409 opportunity to apply to a bench for a \$250 fee.

410  
411 LuAnn said she would like to see an art trail with a map that could be placed on the city's  
412 website.

413  
414 **Item 8 – Discussion regarding art display cases, location and policy for use, and possible**  
415 **partnership with schools and businesses to display Onalaska Student Art**

416  
417 Mayor K. Smith told commission members there were two art display cases owned by the  
418 Onalaska Historical Society that were located in the main hallway at City Hall. The historical  
419 society display in those cases had not been changed for a long period of time. Mayor K. Smith  
420 said she reached out to the historical society, which owns the cabinets, and asked why the display

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421 had not been changed. Mayor K. Smith told commission members the historical society no  
422 longer wanted to have those cabinets. The items on display were removed, and the cabinets were  
423 donated to the Arts Commission. Mayor K. Smith said one cabinet was placed at the library, and  
424 the other was placed at the Omni Center.

425  
426 Joyce asked if the cabinets are currently empty.

427  
428 Mayor K. Smith said they are empty and told Joyce the cabinets are suited for three-dimensional  
429 art. Mayor K. Smith told commission members they should come up with a plan as to what they  
430 want displayed in the cases, and who will maintain and update them. Mayor K. Smith expressed  
431 her desire to send a thank-you note to the Onalaska Historical Society.

432  
433 LuAnn said she will send the thank-you note.

434  
435 Mayor K. Smith told commission members she and Ald. Tom Smith had met with the art  
436 teachers from Onalaska High School, Onalaska Middle School, and the city's three public  
437 elementary schools and discussed how the Arts Commission could work together with the  
438 schools to promote anything. Mayor K. Smith said her ideas were based upon many of the  
439 things Ald. Stevens had mentioned, including either sponsoring or partially sponsoring an art  
440 contest or holding an art fair. However, Mayor K. Smith said the art teachers did not like any of  
441 those ideas and instead suggested displaying in the community two-dimensional art created by  
442 students. Mayor K. Smith said the art teachers would like her assistance in finding area  
443 businesses that would show two-dimensional displays of student art. Mayor K. Smith said she  
444 was considering reaching out to the OEF, and she told commission members she had spoken  
445 with Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick about displaying art in a protected manner at the  
446 Omni Center.

447  
448 Ald. Stevens suggested perhaps shifting the responsibility of maintaining the cases to the Parks,  
449 Recreation & Library Board if the Arts Commission ceases to exist. Ald. Stevens said he would  
450 like to see both Onalaska High School student art and pieces from local artists displayed in the  
451 cases.

452  
453 Mayor K. Smith told Ald. Stevens it is her understanding that "they don't want to manage what's  
454 in it," and she said perhaps she can be responsible for those duties, or perhaps she can work with  
455 someone from the school.

456  
457 Joyce asked if the commission should adjourn and decide when to meet again.

458  
459 Mayor K. Smith told Joyce the commission may adjourn and said they can speak to Amanda  
460 about the next steps. Mayor K. Smith said the next meeting may occur once a plan has been  
461 established.

462

**Arts Commission  
of the City of Onalaska**

Monday, July 13, 2020

12

463 Ald. Stevens asked if the next Arts Commission meeting should be established after the meeting  
464 with Amanda is done.

465

466 Mayor K. Smith said, "We can call a meeting when we want to. If we can meet before the next  
467 scheduled meeting we can choose to do that as long as we notice it."

468

469 **Adjournment**

470

471 Motion by Linda, second by Ald. Stevens, to adjourn.

472

473 Joyce adjourned the meeting.

474

475

476 Recorded by:

477

478 Kirk Bey