

**MINUTES**  
**City of St Charles**  
**Visitors Cultural Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

**1. Call to Order at 5:16 PM**

**2. Roll Call**

Members Present: Chuck Amenta; Jodi Manthei; Sharon Spero; Sally Stancati; Lori Stahulak, Anne Becker; Kathy Melone; Scott Corbin and Jamie Swenson.

Member(s) Absent:0

Also Present: Chris Minick, City of St. Charles; Carylie Forte, City of St. Charles; Tracey Conti, City of St. Charles.

Becker introduced new board members Amenta and Stahulak and asked that they give a little personal history.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of June 17, 2020**

Becker asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting. Motion by Spero, seconded by Manthei. The minutes were approved by a 7-2 roll call vote:

Becker - approved  
Amenta – abstained  
Spero – approved  
Swenson – approved  
Stancati – approved  
Melone – approved  
Corbin - approved  
Manthei - approved  
Stahulak – abstained

**4. Public Comment** – Minick noted that no members of the public were present in the Meeting Chamber. Becker asked if there was Public Comment by anyone who might have connected remotely to the meeting. No public comment was made.

**5. Discussion of Funding Applications received and consideration of approval of Visitors Cultural Commission Funding Allocation recommendations for FY 2021-22**

Becker turned over the discussion to Minick to briefly explain the scoring system and the scoring summary sheet (see below illustration) that is used to finalize scoring and promote the discussion of funding to be allocated to cultural organizations in FY 2021-22.

Ten organizations applied for funding from the Visitors Cultural Commission for FY 21-22. Based on the matrix scores by commission members and the percentages resulting from the average scores in four categories (Economic Impact, Enhance Community Culture, Resident Benefit, and Enhancing St Charles Reputation), it was recommended to look at what the individual funding amounts might become, based on the requested funding by organizations and the “calculated award” figures that resulted from the scoring percentages.

Manthei suggested that they start the funding discussion by looking at the “Calculated Award” amounts and if any are greater than the “Requested Funding” figure, that they reduce the award to the requested funding amount. All agreed to start with that process.

Becker asked that they look at the Fox Valley Concert Band (FVCB) and the St Charles Singers as an example where the calculated award amount was greater than their requested funding. Becker reflected on her notes and a concern for her during the pandemic is that several cultural organizations were unable to perform in their normal capacity. Some were able to reinvent themselves, but for others, their artistic performances are largely audience-based, which caused them to not be able to perform to a gathering of people. With Fox Valley Concert Band their funding request is \$6,000 and the “calculated award” came to \$8,234. In this example, Becker stated she is uncomfortable with awarding more than has been requested by FVCB. Stancati recommended that FVCB’s \$6,000 request is very reasonable and would recommend that amount be awarded. Melone agreed with this as well and commended FVCB for asking just for what they needed.

Spero mentioned that she had spoken with Paul Lencioni, board president of Kane Repertory Theater, and they brought in professional actors from across the country to perform via Zoom, and these professional actors are now interested in being a part of Kane Repertory Theater. Spero stated that there is a plan that they will perform live this year in a newly remodeled theater in downtown St. Charles.

Becker noted that Sculpture in the Park had the highest score, which reflects their high visibility of sculptures around the city, especially in Mount Saint Mary park, and their “calculated award” is actually higher than the amount they had requested. Manthei suggested that maybe they could go through each organization and determine if any adjustments in funding should be made from the calculated award figures.

Stancati mentioned that they should not stray too far from the funding that has been requested by each organization.

Each organization was reviewed and final funding was decided based on the below Summary.

<b>FINAL FUNDING 21-22</b>										
<b>Summary of Average Scores</b>										
Organization	Rating Criteria					Total	% of Total	Calculated Award	2021-22 Funding Requested	Final Award 21-22
	Economic impact	Enhance Community Culture	Resident benefit	Enhance St. Charles Reputation						
Fineline Creative Arts Center	7	8	8	7		30	11.00%	9,896	15,000	11,000
Fox Valley Concert Band	5	7	7	6		25	9.15%	8,234	6,000	6,000
Preservation Partners	5	8	7	7		27	9.71%	8,740	10,000	9,490
St Charles Art Council	6	8	8	7		29	10.47%	9,426	13,000	10,000
Steel Beam Theater	7	7	7	8		29	10.51%	9,462	20,000	10,000
Norris Cultural Arts Center	6	7	7	7		27	9.59%	8,632	20,000	9,382
Sculpture in the Park	6	8	8	9		31	11.24%	10,112	10,000	10,000
St Charles Singers	7	7	7	8		29	10.55%	9,498	9,000	9,000
Kane Repertory Theatre	5	6	6	6		23	8.47%	7,620	20,000	6,000
Marquee Youth Stage	5	7	7	7		26	9.31%	8,379	19,652	9,129
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>277</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>142,652</b>	<b>90,000</b>

Becker called for a motion to approve final funding allocations for the organizations. Motion by Manthei, seconded by Amenta. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

## 6. Adjournment

Motion by Melone, seconded by Amenta to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Minutes prepared by Carylie Forte.