

North Ogden Art Guild
3 March 2021
Meeting Minutes

Arts Guild Members and City Representatives in Attendance:

Todd Harris (co-chair)
Jamie Rasmussen (co-chair)
Mayor Neil Berube
Charlotte Ekstrom (City Council representative)
Tiffany Staheli (Park and Recs Director)
Chelsea Nelson
Mark Daniels
Jocelyn Michael
Sean Casey
Brianna Orgill
Eliot (Food Truck League representative)

Welcome: Todd Harris

We are grateful to be able to get the Arts Guild up and going quickly but still thoughtfully.

Four subcommittees have been formed in order to help us get started and be organized in our efforts.

Movies in the Park: (proposed to be Monday evenings at Barker Park)
Music and Food Trucks: (proposed to be Thursday evenings at North Ogden Park)
Performing Arts Workshops: (various days/times in the summer)
Art Fairs: (plans to be determined)

These four committees are not the only things we can do as an Art Guild, but they are what we are going to get started with and then go from there.

Monday Night Movies in the Park: We will start with a trial run and make sure we are being mindful of the residents who live nearby, and all current health department gathering guidelines.

Food Trucks and Music: Another opportunity to gather outside, plenty of room to social distance and enjoy the music, food and good weather.

Music and Performing Arts Workshops: These could be short-term performing arts camps for youth, or a weekly/bi-weekly course offering in the evenings, etc.

Art Fair: North Ogden-area art show and sale. We can do this once and see how it goes to decide if we want to repeat the activities.

Open for Comments:

Jocelyn suggested we could piggy-back on the Ogden Friday Night Art Stroll—we could also offer some type of arts offering on a Friday night.

Mark talked about a two-week summer camp called “Caught in the Act” that was open to young performers in previous years. The City will match the RAMP grant that we’ve been awarded (\$5,000 from the county RAMP Grant committee) for this year’s summer performing arts camp.

Chelsea has helped with performing programs in the Ogden area where an entire play is performed after a six-week theater camp. They also held other camps throughout the City that all participated in a final arts night gathering (dance, visual arts, music, etc.). If we host an art fair, we need to be mindful that we decide whether it is an art **sale** or art **display**, so that those who are attending have a clear idea in mind before they come.

Additional resources to use in the sub-committees: Jon Call, City Administrator; Tiffany Staheli, Parks and Rec director; Charlotte Ekstrom, City Council Representative

Subcommittees will meet independently over the next three weeks and then we will all meet back together to share ideas and plans. The committee work is to be quite thorough so that when we meet together again the ideas that will be presented will be ready to roll out.

Cherry Days planning and the Amphitheater Fundraising will NOT be handled by the Art Guild. Those who would like to be involved with those activities should contact the City Council.

Mayor Berube advised the Arts Guild to review the Guild’s charter and come back with recommended changes.

Movies in the park: what is the best time to start the movie? Can we start the movie before too late at night, and avoid too much sunset glare? If we set the screen far back in the stage area, the curtains will help shade the screen—but then the screen is set back quite far from the guests coming to watch the movie. We can discuss the placement of the screen and start time of the movies in our subcommittees.

Todd Harris asked the Arts Guild members to indicate which subcommittee(s) they’d like to join.

Chelsea: performing arts camps; movie nights; arts fair

Mark: performing arts camps

Sean: Sound at the amphitheater—music in the parks; concerts/performance, etc. Sean offered to be the sound engineer (pro bono) to serve the various musicians’ needs. Power and the set-up at North Ogden park should be sufficient for whatever is needed in terms of sound. Other events can also tap into Sean’s expertise for any sound needs. Sean would also be able to help with plays and other performances.

Jocelyn: performing arts camps

Brittany: performing arts camps

Jennie: movie nights and music in the park; food trucks can be included at both events as long as the demand for them is there.

Brianna: music in the park; we’re looking to really upgrade the level of musician talent; there are local community bands, jazz groups, etc. that have great talent; we can reach out to local musicians to find more musicians that are diverse and will attract a good crowd. Brianna can be the events coordinator for the concerts.

Eliot: Food truck rep; can coordinate all food truck needs. He can help advise us as to how many different trucks are needed, and how far out we would need to book. March through May food truck nights are already scheduled. It's recommended that we schedule 2-3 months at a time. The food truck vendors are happy because they do well at the North Ogden park events. The number of trucks is based on the demand—right now our plan is to have seven trucks.

Budget discussion: High quality musicians don't work for free. Where do we find the funding for performers? This will be something to discuss in our subcommittees and as plans are made moving forward.

Keri Casper has asked to be removed from the Arts Guild due to health concerns. When her health allows, she can begin to participate and help again, if she would like.

Discussion on the art fair: making it more of a show than a sale. We have wonderful art talent in our city and many of the artists know other artists and could help us recruit great exhibitors. Perhaps starting on a small scale will help us do things really well, and then we can grow the event into something larger as time goes by. Perhaps the art could be on display at the library or in the senior center. Blair Buswell is a great local sculptor who might help us attract visitors by his involvement.

Councilmember Ekstrom: thanks to all for being willing to volunteer and get things going. Our City has a lot of talent and we're excited to bring people together and celebrate these great arts.

Mayor's closing comments: this is something that can evolve. We can start small and strong and develop things in a proper way. Let's adopt the motto: If we're going to do this, let's do it right. Let's look for ways to make things happen rather than stop things from happening.

Let's keep things classy and appealing as a city. Let's make North Ogden cool again 😊.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 25th at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Each sub-committee is asked to prepare a written report and choose one person on their committee to be the voice of their findings. Once the Arts Guild has reconvened and discussed the work of the subcommittees, we will be able to take our recommendations to the City Council for their approval.