



**City Arts & Culture Commission  
Meeting Minutes – Special Meeting  
Thursday, September 10, 2020, 6:30 pm  
Staff Lounge, Second Floor, Bristol City Hall  
111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

**ATTENDEES:** Lindsay Vigue, Juliet Norton, Andrea Adams  
Mark Walerysiak, Kim Villanti (via Webex)  
**ABSENT:** Samantha Buonafede, Bill Stortz  
**COUNCIL LIAISON:** ---  
**GUEST:** Jared Welcome

- I. The City Arts & Culture Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Lindsay Vigue.
- II. Discussion of Wood Carving and Interviews of Artists

**Jared Welcome:**

Lindsay asked Jared how he started in this art form. He is a teacher but was fascinated with the carving of trees and got more and more practice. He was interested in an art form that can be touched. He does the finish which is geared towards New England. He has been observing and working with other carvers and continues to learn. He does carving at the Berlin and Durham fairs and enjoys demonstrating as he is a teacher.

**Questions:**

- Do you have one type that you like the best?
  - He has information on different types of trees and bark. He has a lot of commissions and is booked until 2023 but is interested as this is Bristol and could fit us in. He is not a drawing artist and would do whatever the commission wants.
- How long does it take usually?
  - About 4 days.
  - Various types of trees were discussed and the type of paint that would be used – it would have to be touched up occasionally. That takes about 1/2 a day. He uses a Thompson sealer. He discussed how the tree reacts in various types of weather.
- So the cost is approximately \$2500 for a 12 ft. tree then goes from there with 15 ft. max.
- Does the paint add to the cost?
  - No. He can come up once a year to do touchups but then he can only paint some portions to cut down on the maintenance, especially at the top.
- How does the overall process work? Do we give you some concepts and then get your feedback and placement and then brainstorm?
  - Yes. He doesn't duplicate others' work and tries to make the animals look as real as possible.
- We are looking for realism.
- What is the starting point for 15 ft.?
  - It depends on the circumference of the tree and how much detail there would be. Probably ranges \$2500 - \$4000. He can work with our budget.
- So you are looking at curing the tree for about 1 year – 1-1/2 years.

- Is that what is recommended?
  - Yes, because there will be less cracks and it will last longer.
  - His prices are competitive as he only does about one a month and has a full time job.
- Are storm damaged trees more susceptible to rot?
  - Shouldn't be. He uses Rustoleum paint also and removes the bark.

Other issues were discussed re: water, bugs. Jared recommends that the tree is sprayed 2 or 3 times a year with Thompson's oil based sealer. It only takes a few minutes. The tree is still living. Spray the roots with bug killer. He leaves at least a foot of tree at the bottom uncarved because of snow, etc.

- Is it far enough away from the street so that the snow melt or plow will not affect it?
  - It should be OK but some of it will get on the tree. After the first year check it in the spring. Seal it before the winter season. The paint should also not fade if you use the oil based sealer.

Jared Welcome left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Discussion. The time frame will be explained to the City. Lindsay will contact Josh in the Parks Department about leaving the tree as is for now. The info regarding the curing of the tree will be verified.

The committee will try to get one more artist to interview on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the regular meeting and then make a decision. They will also decide at that time on a fall project.

General discussion.

### III. Adjournment

Andrea Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m., seconded by Juliet Norton. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cooper,  
Recording Secretary