

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Joshua Hamre, Emily Clifford, Jason Neeley, Nzima Hutchings, Steph MacGillivray, John Santanella, Joyce Bolanos, Dan Keating, Rosalind Swift, Dr. Fiona Vernal

Special Guests

Dr. Fiona Vernal, UCONN Professor joined us to speak about her project involving African American History. Her project with UCONN is collaboration to work on representing different aspects of a community's history. She will train on how to conduct oral history or she will do the oral history herself. She will help to develop an exhibition, typically involving 12 panels in libraries and town halls for high visibility. She will also be considering a digital component following the exhibit for continued public access. The cost of the project is absorbed by UCONN for oral histories. The cost of the physical exhibit is \$5000, The physical exhibit plus a digital component will cost \$7500, this includes the hosting of a website, printer and graphic designer costs.

The projects typically take 1 calendar year to properly execute. The goal is to do the exhibition at a meaningful time for the organization. The project she is pitching will likely be ready for exhibition in February. Connecticut Humanities is supporting UCONN with the project. Her deadline for confirming this project is the end of May 2023 to ensure the project is on the 2024 calendar.

Her exhibitions have historically begun showing at the Hartford Public Library. Due to damage at the library the current exhibit she is working on will not open until Feb 2024. The exhibit is a Tobacco exhibition and they are looking for partners in the Tobacco Valley to host the exhibition. It features 25 poster size (24x36) panels. The goal for completion of the current project is Sept 2023. John suggested the locations of Asnuntuck or the Annex Gymnasium as options for the exhibit in Enfield. Fiona can do a site visit. The exhibits will be on display for 6 months at a time.

For the African American History project, they are looking for a list of people to interview for the project. Fiona and a summer intern will conduct the interviews. They are looking for long-term residents of Enfield who have knowledge of the history. They are looking for 15 participants who have resided in Enfield 20-30 years. Ideally they will be African American but anyone who can speak about the different aspects of the African American history like realtors, lawyers, straw buyers, etc.

They will use their own graphic designer or printer but are willing to use Enfield specific vendors if we prefer. The exchange of funds will be when the Exhibition is completed. We will get an invoice and pay the vendor directly \$5000 for the exhibit only or \$7500 with the addition of digital access.

Rosalind shared that Ujima has received a grant \$5000 for the project and is looking for the additional \$2500 from ECAC. Emily made a motion to accept funding \$2500. Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report

The Town Council approved the transfer of \$8732 into the ECAC account. As of today, the money is not yet showing in the account. There is a current balance of \$6922, with the projected payment of \$600 for the Open Mic Program, \$400 for the purchase of T-Shirts, \$500 Women's Club Art Show. With the deposit of \$8732 the balance in the account will be \$14154.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

Jason spoke with Matt Conway from Rise-up regarding the murals. He reviewed the sustainable CT matching fund. They will not support the mural at the Deli because potentially improving the business will not be covered.

The Salas wall will cost \$10,000. ECAC can donate \$1000 that will be matched. Beyond the ECAC contribution any large donors can contribute what they want. Additionally, we will need 50 unique donors to show community support. Matt told Chris Gann to put a hold on the rendering for the mural pending ECAC input. Emily will set up a meeting with the artist to convey our vision. The goal is to keep it focused. Mr. Salas would like to be part of the project and can be a potential sponsor.

T-shirts will be ordered tonight prior to the deadline following a vote.

There was a discussion about the board secretary getting a stipend. That is pending an answer.

Board of Education Liaison's Remarks

Joshua commends ECAC for their support of the Heritage Fair. He is very excited to see what comes of the Heritage Fair in 2 years. He is hoping to have a well-represented demographic across town. One culture missing was the Italian culture in Enfield. ECAC will continue to build up a network of the various cultures in the town to make the partnership stronger. ECAC can help with the list of cultural groups and share the information with Amy Whitbro.

A suggestion for future events was small tote bags with the ECAC logo and QR code.

ECAC will inquire about presence at the 4th of July Celebration. We discussed having materials on the table covered by a plexiglass cover to prevent them blowing away but allowing the booth to be unattended.

Joyce shared that she is not in support of the fiberglass eagles and would like us to discuss other shapes or eagles with their wings spread.

John suggested that ECAC work with the beautification committee to have the companies that sponsor the adopt-a-spot locations throughout town buy an eagle and paint it. We will invite someone from the Beautification Committee to come to an upcoming meeting to discuss public installations or public art.

ECAC will contact other communities to learn how they implement and maintain them. Nzima will call the town halls for more information.

In reviewing the budget: we will bring down the allocated amount of the mini grants to limit to 4-5 grants per year.

The other items on the list are Event Sponsorship, Poet Laureate program, Concert Series to include 6 shows May-October. The concert series will be in this year's budget for May, June and Next year's budget July-October. We can ask companies who want to sponsor a show to offset the cost of concerts. We also suggested charging food trucks a fee.

It was suggested that a revenue item be added to the budget as an opportunity to raise funds to cover the events.

Steph talked to a production company regarding the band shell performances.

Emily made a motion to pass the first draft of the 2023/2024 budget first draft with the added revenue line. Nzima 2nd. All voted in favor.

Emily made a motion to accept the \$450 purchase of ECC t-shirts. Nzima 2nd all voted in favor.

Donna discussed the PFLAG Pride Festival looking for sponsorship to fund the Drag performances for a total of \$1000. ECAC's mission is to promote and support Arts & Culture of all kinds.

Motion was made by Emily, 2nd by Dan to allocate \$1000 to the PFLAG Enfield Pride Festival Drag Performance. ECAC will have a table at the event.

Our next event will be the Women's Club Art Show at Enfield High School. The event will be held Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. ECAC will have a table at the event.

Nzima discussed the Hartford Free Center. It is an open, free-standing space. She is looking to create that model in town. Perhaps extra space at the mall. Jon Santanella is working on getting a space.

Emily will send out a survey to local artists. ECAC has a community calendar now. Emily and Jason worked together to create. It.

John can talk about our upcoming events at the Town Council Meetings.

We will need to take a group photo for the social media pages.

Adjournment Motioned by Emily, 2nd by Nzima

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Town Hall | Scitico Room

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Hamre | Secretary