

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Virtual via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Joyce Bolanos, Dan Keating

Approval of Minutes

Dan motioned to accept the minutes from the April meeting, all voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

not present

Staff Liaison's Remarks

not present

Board of Education Liaison's Remarks

not present

Old Business

Open Mic Night

Last month was our first Open Mic Night at the library. Kevin Crane performed and facilitated the event. There were 8-10 participants at the event. Not many performed. We are hoping to have a better turn out tomorrow night. During the Women's Club Art Show ECAC members spoke to many community members to promote the event. ECAC is still putting together what the Open Mic Night will be. We need to make sure that people know what the event is. Convincing someone to perform is a matter of convincing them that what they will perform will fit the event. We need to identify what to expect in the space, performers don't want to be out of place.

We should re-target some of the marketing for the event then lean into the vibe. We are working on the ambiance/environment. We will rearrange the seating to be more curved and add lighting. Joyce purchased a curtain light, 2 small tables and 2 small lamps to add softer lighting. Joyce will be setting up the event, Donna and Emily will both be in attendance, Water and pre-packaged snacks will be purchased. Donna, Emily and Joyce can attend the June Open Mic night. Joyce will save her receipts for the lighting to be reimbursed for the purchases.

Motion to create a budget for Open Mic night refreshments from May to the end of the year as well as marketing materials: posters/flyers \$300.00. Emily made the motion, Dan 2nd, all voted in favor.

Hazardville Institute: Joyce emailed the Town Manager. Ellen shared with her contacts for 2 of the Hazardville Institute's board members Donna and Gretchen. Joyce learned that the

Hazardville Institute does not have a certificate of occupancy due to ongoing renovations and the parking issue that is being addressed. They are hoping to finish renovations within the next year. They are looking for a business to occupy half the building for revenue and the other half of the building will be for community use. Joyce will email Gretchen and Donna to keep in touch with the progress.

Women's Club Art Show at Enfield High School was held to support the scholarship fund. ECAC had a table at the event and was able to connect with the attendees. Joyce, Nzima and Emily were at the event Friday night, Donna and Josh were there on Saturday. Postcards with the ECAC information were handed out in addition to information about the Open Mic Nights and our mini coloring books.

New Business

Steph works part time for the Town Manager's office and is supporting ECAC with scheduling programming. ECAC voted that we would fund 5 shows in the bandshell this summer. 1 per month June-October. Steph had started booking bands and lining up a production company to support ECAC. Steph was suggested to work with the 4th of July Committee's Jason Keeley. There have now been weekly concerts book through the summer, all the bands have been booked. The concerts will be on Tuesday nights, not the Thursday nights that ECAC had agreed on. Emily will touch base with Ellen, John and Lori, as well as Jason Keeley to find out how the concerts will work and where the funding will work. Emily emailed the commission members the band list and dates. She will also inquire about promotion for the bandshell concerts. We are 1 month out of the beginning of the scheduled concerts. The bandshell is planned to be completed in time. There has been no publicity or promotion for the event.

ECAC has been doing a great job being out in the community and the public face of the Enfield Culture and Arts Commission. We will wait to vote on publicity for the summer concert series until we get more information.

Enfield Pride, Dr. Greg Gray contacted ECAC for sponsorship for their First Annual Enfield Pride Celebration on June 17th at United Congregational Church. He has provided a list of expenses and inquired about the mini grant. Greg has been sharing dates of events to be added to the Community Calendar.

We discussed that we have sponsored the PFLAG Enfield Pride Event and that it would be fair to support the causes for this year. Emily is ok to sponsor \$500. Joyce would vote "No" because of the cost of the visual art project initiatives. Donna said that the visibility in the community at the Pride event will give ECAC the ability to promote our summer events including the Open Mic Nights and the BandShell concert series.

A vote for \$500 for Enfield Pride Celebration 3 voted in favor, 1 opposed in sponsoring the event.

There is concern that there are other forms of art including Visual art to be sponsored. Art should inspire, uplift and motivate people. We discussed the Eagles project being a long term

project that we will get back to. Joyce would like to see Butterfly Wings and Angel Wings at parks around town. We could plan an event where we could invite kids to paint the wings. We will research the cost and vote on it. We will plan for 3 locations. 1 near the Higgin's Park BandShell, 1 at the Splash pad at Parkman School and we will look for a 3rd site. Emily will reach out to building and grounds for more information. Emily will ask Nzima to reach out to Oli for pricing information to see if she would be interested in helping with the project. Emily will reach out on the town side to gather the information.

We will hold off on the Town Hall Art installation due to the visibility of the display being so limited.

The Google Survey is working, artists have been submitting their information which will expand our projects and opportunities into visual arts.

ECAC Facebook page is up to almost 1000 likes. The daily poetry month posts helped to build our followers.

Next month, we will be naming our new Poet Laureate. We will be awarding our outgoing Poet Laureate Elizabeth Swiezack a plaque to commemorate Enfield's First Poet Laureate. Emily made a motion to spend \$40 to purchase the plaque. All voted in favor of the purchase.

ECAC would like to purchase a folding wagon to carry our materials to our events. Emily made a motion to spend \$100 on a folding wagon. All voted in favor.

In June, we will be voting on the purchase of more swag items to give away at our upcoming events. we will look at different products for purchase including small tote bags with our logo. We discussed commissioning local artists to create a new coloring book for us. The artist could draw something in black and white, focusing on places in Enfield. We discussed finding out the cost of a 16 page coloring book. Emily can send Dan a list of printers to price. We would like to support local businesses if possible to price out printing costs. We could ask artists to draw the Town Hall in 3 different styles, we will vote on a potential stipend for the artist.

Emily will reach out regarding the Shakespeare in the Park event that was discussed in a prior meeting to see if they would like to attend our June meeting to discuss the event.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Hamre | Secretary