

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 4, 2024

The minutes are subject to approval by the NCAC members at the next Arts Commission Meeting.

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, April 4 2024, in the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Commission Chairperson Laura E. Lerman.

Commission Members: Laura Lerman, Jennifer Cebry (absent), Andrea Spencer, Michael Jehle (absent), Roger Connor Jr, Daniel Ferreira (absent), Grant Ossendryver, Robert Kaiser, Robyn Lynch

Auxiliary Members: None

Members of the Public: None

1. **Acceptance of minutes:** Roger Connor Jr made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2024. Grant Ossendryver seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Officers' Reports** – There was an interview in Bee this week where a women said there are activities for kids and seniors but nothing for everyone in between. Laura wrote a letter to The Bee introducing the Cultural Commission's website calendar which currently has 23 arts events in April that are within minutes from the flagpole and plugged the arts festival.
3. **Possible projects for 2024**
 - Risk Averse** – Mike's partner can help in the summer
 - Poet Laureate** – Mike's partner can help in the summer
 - Health Fair 2024** - The health department will e-mail us in August with the dates.
4. **Arts Festival; next meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024**
5. **Scholarships/grant** – Andrea was able to look at the scholarships online. There are six scholarship applications and the plan is to have a meeting to come up with "our picks." If there are interviews needed, they will be April 24-46. By the beginning of May the career center will need to have the picks.

Grants: Update on progress - The signs are in Jane Sharpe's garage. She has had some challenges. Laura will go to Jane's home and get the signs.

Robyn created a new online form. Andrea will look at the old grant and make sure everything is in it. The plan is to have it accessible on the website. The start and end dates will need be posted.
6. **Public Participation** - None
7. **Community Center** - None

8. **Municipal Gallery; Artisan's Showcase** - K-12 is in the Gallery through April 12. It is a must see as even the signs that say "Please Don't Touch the Art" are artistic. Laura helped stage it last Wednesday and Thursday (she was the gofer) and when she left at 4:30 pm on Thursday, all the art teachers were still there. High school art teacher Kym Noone is in her second year and has become a leader. There are 9 art teachers who serve 3000 students. Laura advocates for everyone to go see what 'their tax dollars are doing.' The referendum for the budget is in two weeks.
9. **Commission Website** - The 2023 poster has been replaced with the 2024 poster by Karen Ciocca. Interviewed her last week, submitted the first press release for the festival. It should be in The Bee this week. Typically, if she does not have room, she lets Laura know.
10. **All Other Business** – Volunteers will be needed for the Arts Festival.

Robert Kaiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Robyn Lynch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Dana Ulibarri, Clerk