

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at the Municipal Center.

Members Present: Laura Lerman, Rob Kaiser, Jen Cebry, Andrea Spencer, Deb Zukowski, Grant Ossendryver

Members Absent: John Conk, Tracy Van Buskirk, Donna Randle

Auxiliary Members: none

Members of the Public: Chris Dumoulin

Laura Lerman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Acceptance of minutes (November 9, 2017 meeting)

Jen Cebry moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Andrea Spencer.

Officer Reports

Chair:

- Space for meeting has been moved to the Municipal Center permanently, due to difficulty accessing the space at Town Hall South.
- Clarified that the Newtown Charter sets the requirements (in section 2-10) that guide appointment of new members. For the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission, at most 6 can be from any one party.

Vice Chair:

- The commission will have ½ booth at the Destination Newtown event being held on Nov. 16 from 4-7 at the Edmond Town Hall basement.
- Cultural Arts Commission postcards for the event look great.
- Jen's Tablet will be used to get photos
- Laura will provide a black tablecloth, document holders, vases (for propping posters), and candy in a basket
- Donna has the posters re: scholarships/grants
- Andrea will provide the flowers

Treasurer Report:

- After all expenses for the Festival have been paid, there remains \$14,566.72. Of that:
 - \$5,000 will be used for grants and scholarships
 - \$5,000 will be used as seed money for next year's Arts Festival
 - Some will be potentially used to revamp the website
 - The remaining will be placed in reserve
- There is an additional \$2,500 assistance from the town for the fiscal year, beginning on July 1, 2017.

Public Participation

- None.

Naming the Gallery

- Rob and Laura presented to the Board of Selectmen on Nov 6, 2017 and were invited back to present ideas for action by the incoming Board of Selectmen on Jan 2, 2018.
- Rob handed out possible logos (see figure 1) for the Gallery Space.
 - General agreement that #2 was too formal.
 - #4 was whimsical
 - #5 was clean, though less modern
 - #3 was not commented on
 - Commission requested Rob focus on #1, potentially spreading it out a bit.
- Commission will revisit the discussion in December and is expected to select a logo then.



Figure 1

Art Festival Report

- See Treasurer’s Report for financials
- Jen requests members to let her know interests in helping for next year. Also, we should let her know if we hear of others who are willing to help.
- List of whereabouts of related equipment
 - Jen C: PA and lawn signs
 - Rob: 1 GOBO
 - Andrea: Tablecloths, Beer/Wine stuff
 - Guman: Lights
 - Laura: T-Shirts, posters, tablecloths
 - Braun Moving and Storage: 1 GOBO, stage
 - Others?

Destination Newtown

- See Vice Chair’s Report

Grants and Scholarships

- 2018 call for scholarship applications is up on the website
 - Ms. Hiscavich has been notified
- Still working on grants. Ron to help with formatting.

Website

- Laura working with Walter, the administrator of the website.
- Any requested posts for the website should be provided 2 – 3 days prior to the expected posting date.
 - Traffic is light, so it is suggested to post events/information even earlier to ensure that more people can see it in time.
- Calendar updates have been difficult. Ron has been assisting.
- Use Facebook for things that need to be posted quickly.

Other Business

Showcase at the Library: Discussion lead by Grant

- November: The Cultural Arts Commission partnered with the Newtown Historical Society to provide a collection of documents and some artifacts related to the Curtis Packaging business (including an account book from Martin Kelly) that provide insight on what it was like to live in Sandy Hook along with an Irish immigrant perspective of Sandy Hook.

- Curtis Packaging started as a button and comb manufacturing business that transformed into a cardboard box maker, and ultimately ended up as a full packaging business. The business was owned by a member of the Curtis family up to 1978.
- December: History of Channukah, with antique menorahs, etc.

Gallery: Discussion lead by Laura

- Flag Pole exhibit ends on December 6, 2017.
- Pat has been asked by 12/14 parents to allow them to place pictures of their lost children in the corridor for 10 days, beginning on Dec 6, 2017.
 - Commission members feel that a more appropriate place may be the LC Chambers, as this would provide a more realistic gallery feel and provide a quieter, more reflective space to honor the families. This is possible as the display is for a short time.
 - Laura to meet with Pat to see if this would be welcomed by the families
 - SCAN has portable walls that can convert the LC chambers into a proper gallery space
 - Any scheduled meetings should likely be moved to other spaces.

Dedicated Space for the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission: Introduced by member of public, Chris

- Possibilities that have been discussed in past include Edmond Town Hall, Plymouth Hall. Chris asked about Library. Also potential, permanent space at the Community Center?
 - Edmond Town Hall space thought best short term solution. Jen to follow up.
 - Investigate cost and use of space previously used by Ginger H. Is the use of the space sustainable?
 - Would provide ETH with use of the space by local government entity.
- Programming/use provided, should such a space become available:
 - Office with mailing address
 - Model after Village Park Center?
 - Another venue for events associated with Arts Festival
 - Enrichment for children and other members of community
- Interaction/Collaboration with Parks and Rec programming?

Monthly meeting with Ms. Hiscavich

- Resiliency Center has commission's bongos and banjos
- Outreach to seniors providing knowledge of free school performances

There being no further business, Jen moved to close the meeting. Deb seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.