

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of August 18, 2020 Special Meeting

These minutes are subject to approval by the NCAC, at the next meeting

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission, held a meeting via video conferencing on Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Commission Chairman Laura E. Lerman

Members present: Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Sue Kassirer, Suzanne Lang, Jen Cebry, Tracy Van Buskirk, Rob Kaiser, Grant Ossendryver

Members absent: Deborra Zukowski

Auxiliary members: Jim Cebry, Terry Sagedy

Members of the Public: none

Minutes: It was moved that the minutes of the June 4, 2020 meeting be approved; moved by Spencer, seconded by Ossendryver, no discussion, passed unanimously.

Officer Reports: Andrea Spencer reported that she got a call from someone looking for a mural that had been created after the 12/14 tragedy. She was able to locate it at SHS and let the caller know. No Treasurer's Report

Public Participation: none

Support/Spreading the arts via Facebook Page: Tracy Van Buskirk noted that engagements and reactions have been best for some of the "Fine Arts Friday" posts. She thanked everyone for their continued participation in this project. It was agreed to run it through Labor Day.

October Events / Arts Festival: Terry Sagedy told us that because of COVID, Edmond Town Hall cannot host any of their regular events in the main theatre. Alternatively, they have asked the CAC if we would like to use it at no cost as long as they could continue to sell concessions. Seating is limited to 79 to ensure proper social distancing. Terry suggested that we could present our usual October events along with others. Ideas include: The Three Wordsmiths, Play readings, Risk A Verse, Poetry Slam, Town Players, Musical events, One Act Plays (Beth Young), a Broadway Night, Garner play readings. Jen asked if we know if ETH will open again soon. That is dependent on the situation with the pandemic. Laura wanted to know if this has been presented to the ETH board yet. Jen will talk to Sheila Torres to find out. Rob Kaiser will talk to Jen Guman about musical events. She is also on the ETH board. After we collect further information, we will proceed accordingly.

Public Art at Fairfield Hills: Andrea Spencer presented a proposal to install a public art project at FH. Artists Paula Brinkman, Julia Provey, Dave Brooker and Christine Humber would like to paint plywood to resemble fanciful panel doors that would be installed in front of the actual doors of the old residences at FH. The houses are in poor condition and the idea is to provide Newtowners with a way to enjoy art safely while walking around FH. Dan Rosenthal has approved the project and has agreed to have the Public Works department remove a small tree, take down one light fixture and install the plywood “doors” for the artists. The doors could be removed later and used elsewhere. The cost, to be borne by the CAC, is \$1,564.93. While everyone liked the project, discussion centered around how to classify the expenditure. This amount is outside our regular grant program, and perhaps other artists would ask for funds for special projects. Andrea noted that to date, no one has applied for a grant. It was suggested that this could be justified as an alternative to the Arts Festival. Because signs will be posted that this a CAC project, Suzanne noted that this would be good publicity for the commission. It was moved by Tracy Van Buskirk to allocate the funds for this project, seconded by Rob Kaiser. The motion passed 5 to 1. Andrea said that she and Dan will run it by Ross Carly, Chairperson of the FHA.

Community Center: Jen reported that they are very busy since the re-opening on July 22nd. The CC has pool classes, health and fitness classes, summer camp and art camp. This fall there will be a “Return to Learn” program where students can do schoolwork at the CC as an alternative to home. There will be educational assistants on hand. The CC will also have before and after school care. In all cases, the usual COVID safety measures will be in place.

Poet Laureate: Due to lack of response, the deadline will be extended from the original date of April 6. The Poet Laureate team of Laura Lerman, Tracy Van Buskirk and Lisa Schwartz (to the extent she can help) will update the application and work on publicity. The term is usually three years but, in this case, will be four years to cover Lisa’s last year not served due to her moving away.

Grants: Andrea Spencer reported that no applications were received for arts grants. The application deadline had already been extended to mid-September.

Showcases and Gallery: Closed until the Muni Center and library reopen.

Website: Rob is keeping up with new info.

It was moved by Rob Kaiser to adjourn, seconded by Sue Kassirer, no discussion, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.