

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes of April 4, 2019 Meeting

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE NEWTOWN
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2019 in Meeting Room #2 at Edmond Town Hall

Members present: Deborra Zukowski, Rob Kaiser, Jennifer Cebry, Sue Kassirer, Laura Lerman, Tracy Van Buskirk, Suzanne Lang, Andrea Spencer

Members Absent: Grant Ossendryver,

Auxiliary members present: None

Public present: Dan Rosenthal, First Selectman

Laura Lerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

- Dan Rosenthal: Dan was invited to the meeting to discuss the elimination of the \$2,500 allocation to the CAC for the fiscal year starting 7/1/19. Dan stated that the budget for CAC was reduced to \$0 because our operating balances are strong (at about \$187,000). He regretted that we were not directly informed of the change. Discussion centered around the concept of now using our funds instead of always working towards balancing expenses with revenue. We also discussed how we can work collaboratively with Edmond Town Hall, Park & Rec, and the new Community Center. None of us want to work in a silo. We discussed having a floating rep attend ETH meetings, or visa versa, in order to share ideas. Dan offered to write a letter to the other groups recommending this. We are fortunate that Jennifer Cebry not only a CAC member but also Program Director for the CC. We also discussed what our physical needs are going forward. Ideas included a band shell at the Fairfield Hills campus, a generic space for art programs and projects, and a dedicated easy to access storage space. Jen and Dan agreed to meet to streamline the Art Festival process with the various town departments.
- Acceptance of the Minutes: it was moved (Zukowski) and seconded (Spencer) to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2019 meeting.

- Officers' Reports: Laura Lerman attended a meeting of different Art Alliance organizations in Conn. We were complimented for how much we accomplish. There will be another meeting with David Green of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County on April 9. Andrea Spencer (Vice President) noted that grant applications are being accepted at the State of CT. Suzanne Lang said she could help if there were any grants we wanted to apply for.
- Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Cebry (reporting on behalf of Treasurer Jim Cebry) noted that total account balances are \$180,716. Of that, \$4,171 is earmarked for the weaving program and about \$100,000 is restricted as to use.
- Public Participation: None
- Community Center: Jennifer Cebry is developing lots of interesting programs which will run in 8 week sessions. There will be bussing available for students before and after school. There will be many partnering opportunities for the CAC: open mike/coffee shop venues, family dance events, weaving programs (maybe move the weaving group from the Congregational Church to the CC). Jen envisions an open art studio space. She welcomes programming ideas and ideas for teachers.
- Newtown Arts Festival: There is a volunteer fair at NHS on 4/9 in the morning and evening. Spencer and Van Buskirk agreed to man a table. Some sculptors have been lined up for the open area at the Festival.
- Scholarships and Grants: Twelve applications for scholarships were received and 8 will be interviewed by the Scholarship and Grant Committee (Spencer, Lerman, Kassirer). Three grant applications were received: Friends of the Community Center, Ben's Lighthouse, EverWonder. There was an involved discussion about the criteria used to select the scholarship winners. All agreed that the application needed to be clearer in asking what the applicant has done with their art in the community. But there was disagreement as to how much, if any, weight should be given to community service and also to the quality of the art. Although not completely resolved, it was felt that many criteria need to be addressed, including personality, and that it is up to the subcommittee to make the best judgments.
- Gallery at the Municipal Center: K-12 show the first two weeks of April, followed by Maureen Caparelli from late April to mid May.
- Gallery Showcase: K-12 pottery then, Three Potters to end of May.
- Library Showcase: Weaving
- Risk A Verse: Tracy Van Buskirk asked for volunteer help at the event on April 7th.

- Website: nothing new.
- Other Business: None.
- There being no other business it was moved (Zukowski) and seconded (Kaiser) to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Tracy Van Buskirk
Secretary

The Cultural Arts Commission meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 pm.