

# Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

## Minutes of May 2, 2019 Meeting

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

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Municipal Center.

**Members present:** Deborra Zukowski, Jennifer Cebry, Sue Kassirer, Tracy Van Buskirk, Suzanne Lang, Andrea Spencer

**Members Absent:** Grant Ossendryver, Rob Kaiser, Laura Lerman,

**Auxiliary members present:** None

**Public present:** None

Jennifer Cebry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

- The minutes of the April 4, 2019 meeting were approved (moved Zukowski, seconded Kassirer).
- Officers' Reports: Chairman Laura Lerman was not in attendance but reported via email that she attended the Democratic Party "Campaign Training School" thinking that techniques for attracting votes could be used to attract Art Festival attendees. Two excellent seminars: "Setting Up Social Media" by Jen Leeper and Andrew Gausepohl of the 475 Consulting Group and "Campaign Literature Workshop". Laura also attended a workshop put on by Fairfield County Cultural Alliance on "public art" and "attracting volunteers." There were not many new ideas but she did find out that, other than Stamford which awards \$100,000 in grants through its Cultural Commission, we are the only other Commission that awards grants and scholarships (including Ridgefield and Westport). Treasurer Jim Cebry (via Jen Cebry) reported that the Risk A Verse event raised \$315. Also, \$750 was paid to Paula Brinkman for the Art Festival logo.
- Public Participation: None
- Outside Grants: Suzanne Lang researched this topic and found two possible grants offered by the Connecticut Office of the Arts: Arts based community projects and Operating Support. If we would like to apply for a grant to support the Art Festival, Suzanne recommended that we develop a strategic plan and budget with a 2020 award in mind. Both awards require a matching grant. Suzanne is trying to find out if previously donated money that the CAC has now could qualify.
- Community Center Update: Jen reported that construction is approaching the final stages with an estimated opening of mid-July. Jen requested that the CAC work with the CC on a Community Wall that will include art (fine art, craft, written word, etc). The other area to work together is a once a month art event at the CC. Jen is

developing many art related workshops for kids, teens and adults. The CAC will help where we can.

- Art Festival: We reviewed the layout, location of tents, food trucks, the “Freeway”, etc. The Festival was awarded an intern by the State to be available from June 30 through September who will work on promotion, website and volunteers. The vendor applications are out. There is a volunteer event at the library on May 10 at which the Art Festival will have a table.
- Risk A Verse: Tracy Van Buskirk reported that the event went very smoothly. There were more attendees than in the past, probably due to more promotion on social media.
- Scholarships and Grants: Three scholarship recipients have been selected. Three applications have been received for the art grant.
- Gallery at the Municipal Center and Showcase at the Municipal Center: Marlene Cafarelli mounted her show on Monday, April 22 and will continue through May. Linda Dahanos will be there in June. Two of the Three Potters exhibited their students work in the showcase in the last two weeks of April. May 1, the three Potters installed their work. They will be there through May. We are working on establishing a schedule for The Potters so we can build exhibits around them.
- Library Showcase: The Newtown Weavers will be there until Mid-May when the painted rocks people take over.
- Website: Nothing new.
- Other Business: Deb Zukowski encouraged everyone to take the Fairfield Hills usage survey and to encourage others to do so.
- There being no other business it was moved (Kassirer) and seconded (Spencer) to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Van Buskirk  
Secretary