

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of November 7, 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, November 7, 2019 at the Municipal Center.

Members present: Laura Lerman, Grant Ossendryver, Sue Kassirer, Andrea Spencer, Deborra Zukowski, Rob Kaiser

Members absent: Tracy Van Buskirk, Jennifer Cebry, Suzanne Lang

Auxiliary members present: none

Public present: none

Laura Lerman called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

- Minutes: The minutes of the October 3, 2019 meeting were approved (moved Kaiser, seconded Zukowski, passed unanimously).
- Officers' Reports:
Chairman's Report (Laura Lerman): nothing to report
Vice President (Andrea Spencer): Shared information about the recent Strategy Sub-Committee (of which Zukowski and Lang are also members) meeting: Barbara Snyder of EDC attended the meeting, and announced the need for people to decorate wreaths and trees for the Annual Festival of Trees at Maplewood Danbury. This year's charity is The Renewal House in Danbury. She also forwarded a letter from Bryan Walsh, Community Relations Director, Maplewood at Danbury, expressing the same need.
Treasurer's report: None
- Public Participation: None
- Community Center: In the absence of Jen Cebry, no report this month.
- Newtown Arts Festival: No report this month.
- Gallery at Municipal Center/ Gallery Showcase: Flagpole Photographers show currently on display. Show, which had a fine reception, consists of 250 varied photographs. The showcase has a display of The Three Potters (led by Karen Pinto) through December. In December The Society for the Creative Arts of Newtown (SCAN) is slated to hold their Winter Show. Showcase display is currently being negotiated for December.
- Library Showcase: Current exhibit is The Nutcracker Suite themed, highlighting upcoming and past performances of three local dance groups: The Danbury Music Centre, The Newtown Centre of Classical Ballet and Voice, and Woodbury Ballet. The exhibit includes posters, programs, and the history of The Nutcracker Suite. In December Newtown Environmental Action Team (NEAT) will have an exhibit of crafts made from upcycled materials and instructions for making them. In January the exhibit will be Learn Something New 2020/ February is the month for the Sunday Cinema exhibit, and an exhibit featuring the activities of Protect our Pollinators is in the works.

- Website: Kaiser reminded us to send any events and activities to him to include on the website; even hard copy is welcome.
- Other Business-
 - In discussing the Strategy Sub-Commission (above), the question of differences between the Purpose of the Cultural Arts Commission (as stated in our Ordinance) and the Mission Statement of the Strategy Sub-Commission was raised by Zukowski, who is co-Chairperson with Spencer. Discussion followed. Lerman stated that she likes how the word “community” is used in the Strategy Sub-Commission’s statement. There was general discussion of maybe adopting this new suggested Mission Statement. A decision was made that the Sub-Commission will use this Mission Statement for now. Zukowski made a motion that a proposal that this statement be adopted be postponed until we have more people from the NCAC to vote on it. Kaiser seconded the proposal, and all voted in favor.
 - Lerman, Spencer, and Kassirer will be meeting at the high school with two department chairs tomorrow morning (November 8) to discuss criteria for art scholarships for college awarded annually by the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission. The discussion moved on to whether or not to award two rather than three scholarships (Kaiser) in order to increase the monetary amount of each scholarship—or whether to modestly increase the amount awarded to each of the three existing scholarships. It was recognized that especially in comparison to the cost of college, the amount awarded is not substantial. But it was agreed that the recognition is meaningful to the students. Zukowski moved to keep awarding three scholarships and to keep the amount of each at the existing \$1,250 each. Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
 - Kassirer asked about adding more Newtown Arts Organizations to the list that the Strategy Sub-Committee sent to all Arts Commissions member. Spencer said that additions are most welcome and to send them to herself, Zukowski, and Lang.

There being no other business it was moved (Spencer) and seconded (Kaiser) to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Adjourned around 7:40 PM.