

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes of September 2, 2021 Meeting

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

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission, held a meeting at the Community Center on Thursday, September 2, 2021.

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

Members present: Laura Lerman, Andrea Spencer, Roger Connor, Jen Cebry, Robert Kaiser, Grant Ossendryver, Daniel Ferreira, Tracy Van Buskirk

Members absent: Sue Kassirer

Auxiliary members: none

Members of the Public: none

Minutes: It was moved by Andrea that the minutes of the August 5, 2021 meeting be approved, seconded by Daniel and passed unanimously.

Officer Reports: No report.

Treasurer's Report: no report

Community Center: Jen reported that there is a lot going on at the CC. There is currently an exhibit of painted wood artist palettes by various artists that are being auctioned as a fundraiser for the Resiliency Center. Matt is very open to the idea of more collaboration between the CC and the CAC, possibly music programs. Roger said he has a teacher friend in Newtown who does children's theater. Jen thought that might be a good joint program. Adelka Polak is doing storytelling and puppet making at the CC (and will be at the festival). Matt kindly extended his WB Mason account to us for the festival which we will use to buy hand sanitizers and wipes. There will be two hand sanitizers at each tent as well as a big box of wipes. Maria and Matt from the CC will be running a suncatcher project in the Make Tent.

Public Participation: none.

Term of Office: Six of the nine board positions expire in the same year which could create continuity problems. Laura had suggested to Dan R that the terms of Jen Cebry, Andrea Spencer and Rob Kaiser be extended by one additional year. Dan said the ordinance would not allow that, so it was agreed to renew their terms for one year (to expire 1-1-22), then the usual three year term after that. Everyone agreed this was a good solution.

Facebook Page: Laura continues to post events of interest but does not post a calendar because of the transient nature of the posts.

Scholarships / Grants: There were three grant recipients this year: 1. Resiliency Center used their grant to purchase supplies for the art palette auction, organized by Beth Haggerty. 2. The mural by Lindsay Fuori is now complete. 3. Paula Brinkman is continuing with some art enhancements at Fairfield Hills. She has painted some plywood sheets that cover damaged windows with images of windows. Of note, this artwork is considered “temporary” and so does not fall under the category of a mural.

There was some discussion about the difficulty in getting murals approved. This is because there is no ordinance to allow murals so they are considered “signs” which are strictly controlled. Andrea and Laura see the need to approach Planning and Zoning to create some specific language about murals. Jen suggested that the CAC have control over approving designs for any public buildings before they are submitted to the Design Advisory Board. It was agreed to form a subcommittee of the CAC to be called the “Public Art Subcommittee”. It will be staffed by Jen, Tracy, Grant, Roger and Andrea.

Municipal Gallery/Showcase: Irv Barlia’s photos are now on exhibit at the Muni Gallery. The Showcase is filled with Nancy Cole’s work.

Website: No news.

It was moved by Rob to adjourn, seconded by Daniel, no discussion, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Van Buskirk
Secretary