

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission (NCAC) Strategy Subcommittee

Minutes of October 21, 2019 Meeting

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE NEXT NCAC STRATEGY
SUBCOMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING.**

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission (NCAC) Strategy Subcommittee held a meeting on Monday, October 21, 2019 at the Municipal Center.

Members present: Suzanne Lang, Andrea Spencer, Deborra Zukowski

Members absent: None

Public present: Barbara Snyder

1. Call to Order

Deborra Zukowski called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

2. Public Participation

Barbara Snyder, a member of the Economic Development Commission, mentioned that the commission was investigating how to strategically grow cultural arts events to improve the viability of the Newtown business community. She is working in concert with Christal Preszler and Kimberly Chiappetta of the Newtown Economic and Community Development department. She has been seeking out information about fostering cultural arts events in communities, and will soon be meeting with Lisa Scails, executive director of the Western Connecticut Cultural Alliance. She mentioned possible opportunities to leverage empty spaces for “Pop-Up Events,” for example.

3. Approval of Minutes

No prior minutes

4. Communications

No communications

5. Old Business

No old business

6. New Business

Subcommittee Mission Statement

The members crafted the following mission statement:

“The mission of the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission is to act as an umbrella, focusing on a holistic, town-wide vision to create a community that is enlivened through the arts.”

The members also called out possible aspects that could be part of achieving the mission, including the need to support local artists and arts organizations and an overall goal of melding artists and the community at large.

The members agreed that the mission, as stated above, should be presented to the full NCAC membership for review and approval.

Process

The following steps were outlined for gathering information needed to create a strategic plan:

- 1) Identify and document all groups, organizations, and individuals committed to promoting the arts in Newtown. Learn what they are doing.
- 2) Review NCAC history: What has the NCAC done re: prior work on strategic plans? What lessons has the commission learned throughout the years working with artists, arts organizations, and the community?
- 3) Review current activities within the commission to better understand its current goals, benefits, and drawbacks.
- 4) Brainstorm about possible strategies and approaches, and create/refine overall goals.
- 5) Engage with existing town commissions/departments to uncover alliances that may be useful for realizing aspects of the mission.

For the next meeting, the members will be gathering information on process steps 1) and 2).

Goals

Goals will be created and refined as part of the process above.

Calendar

The committee will meet on the third Monday of every month at 7:30PM, though there will be a need to allow for flexibility to accommodate potential conflicts.

7. Public Participation

No public participation

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.