



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

7:00 pm

Via WebEx

Middletown, CT

Present

David Bauer
Cassandra Day
Julia Faraci
Lee Godburn
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Crystal Laffan
Charlotte McCoid
Pamela Steele
John Basinger

Also Present

Kisha Michael, Coordinator

Absent

Barbara Arafah
Franca Biales
Cheryl Hale
Ed McKeon, Council
Ed Ford, Jr, Council

- 1) Call to Order 7:06pm
- 2) Public Session: Kerry Kincy and Rich Hollant announced that they will be opening soon a community art space located at 52 N. Main St. in town called "Free Center."
- 3) Minutes
 - a) May 27, 2020
Punctuation and date error edits made to minutes of 5/27. Motion to approve by Lee Godburn, seconded by Joyce Kirkpatrick, approved unanimously.
- 4) Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve agenda by Joyce Kirkpatrick, seconded by Charlotte McCoid, approved unanimously
- 5) Remarks from the Chair – spoke about how well the arts are going virtually and commended all for the adjustments.
- 6) Old Business
 - a) Budget Report – the budget was presented to the Common Council with a decrease to the Kids Arts line and was approved at their budget hearing.
 - b) Program Update – Arts Coordinator briefed the group on the type of inquiries the arts office receives in relation to artists seeking resources and opportunities available in the city like venue space for displaying art, gigs and volunteerism.
 - i) Newsletter – Arts Coordinator finds that CivicSend continues to work well when distributing the arts e- newsletter content.
 - ii) Grants – All grant contracts and awards from January have been processed. Grantees either will have extensions due to Covid19 or if applicable be able to transform to a virtual platform to execute their project. Arts Coordinator would like to revisit with the grants committee and would like to invite a council member to join. Julia Faraci, Charlotte McCoid, Joyce Kirkpatrick and Lee Godburn agreed to be on that committee. Topics are expansion of grant categories, establishing set grant

- amounts and to discuss accessibility and equity in the arts.
- iii) Kids Arts – Virtual Circus budget has been approved and contracts have been processed. First week of virtual enrichment classes begin on Monday July 6, 2020.
 - iv) Summer Events – City of Middletown summer events and activities remain cancelled until further notice. Attached document listing cancelled events.
- c) Support & Resources for Covid19 – Arts Coordinator made the commission aware of the City’s Small Business Grants and Loans available through the Community Development Block Grant Funds. This is available through the Dept. of Planning, Conservation and Development.
- 7) Committee Reports
- a) Executive Committee – To review policy/procedures and conflict of Interest.
 - b) Public Art Committee – No report
 - c) Nominating Committee
 - i) Lee reported on proposed slate for 2020-21 year. Franca Biales – Chair, Pamela Steele – Vice Chair and Cassandra Day – Secretary
 - d) Planning and Projects
 - i) MCAAAA Award Winners – Maya Alicki & Cade Napoletano’s awards were delivered to the school to be given to the awardees at their ceremony.
 - ii) Arts Advocacy - The Mayor will personally deliver the Arts Advocacy Awards to N.Baerman and R.Kamins at their homes. It was discussed that a ceremony will be held once COVID19 regulations are lifted.
 - e) Music Committee – No report
 - f) Poet Laureate Committee – Cheryl Hale submitted a poem and it was read to the group by P. Steele.
- 8) New Business
- a) Public input- Input was presented in emails and discussion was held about Christopher Columbus statue – in storage in an undisclosed location.
- 9) Announcements
- a) It was announced that a Virtual History of Music through Ages had approx. 75 people
- 10) Adjournment – Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:32 by Lee Godburn, 2nd by David Bauer passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Steele, Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk,
Mayor Florsheim