

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission
February 25, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Cebry, Rob Kaiser, Ted Kreinik, Laura Lerman, Donna Mangiafico, Donna Monteleone Randle, Jen Rogers, and Andrea Spencer

Members Absent: Robert Rabinowitz

Auxiliary Members Present: Lindsay Kelkres, Terry Sagedy, and Maureen Trotto

Guests Present: Beth Young

Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the January 28, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Officer Reports:

- Laura Lerman announced that HealingNewtown now has a phone (203-304-8030) and Internet access (artshealingnewtown@gmail.com).
- Laura met with Financial Director, Bob Tait. She reported that the NCAC is restricted by statute to invest in only very conservative products. The NCAC should invest only money that won't be needed for 1-5 years. Mr. Tait offered his assistance. Ted Kreinik will look into a short-term investment fund and other options for the NCAC.
- Regarding liability insurance - the NCAC can use any room that is town-owned and will be covered by the Town's liability insurance.
- Laura shared information about her discussion with Liz Stocker about a local grants seminar. Liz suggested talking with the state to find the appropriate speaker. The goal would be to demystify writing of grants and a seminar on finding grants.
- Laura is working with Rhonda Cullens (Flagpole Photographers) to bring original art to businesses and public spaces in town. Jennifer Cebry reported that she is also working with Rosemary Rau (SCAN).
- Laura announced that Rob Kaiser will head up the effort to present one unified website for the NCAC. Terry Sagedy suggested that we set up the site so that one can access the sub-sites, such as newtownartsfestival.com, without having to go through the NCAC home site.
- Laura invited NCAC members and NCAC auxiliary members to a branding workshop on March 15th from 10-2. We are restricting invitees. If anyone wishes to invite someone, please let Laura or Terry know.
- Jennifer Cebry shared information about the work of composer, Steven Sametz, called "A Child's Requiem." Mr. Sametz would like assistance reaching out to children for one-line responses about loss. The NCAC agreed to post the information on our websites and to contact the schools and Newtown support groups. The deadline to respond would be mid to late March.

Committee Reports:

HealingNewtown (Laura Lerman for Valerie Culbertson):

- The lease for the space at the Congregational Church will end June 30, 2014. The cost was \$600/month. Laura will meet with church representatives and discuss the options. NCAC

members suggested a 6th month lease with an additional 6-month option and the ability to terminate the lease and leave with a 30-day notice.

- “A Different Artist, A Different Day” will be the theme of the HealingNewtown Summer Art Camp. The camp will be July 7 – 11 for ages 7 - 11 and July 14 – 18 for ages 12 – 15. Hours for each session will be 10:00 – 1:00 and the fee will be \$50 per child.
- Danielle Estrella, a Dean’s List, art therapy major with a painting minor from Marywood University, will be working with HealingNewtown Director, Valerie Culbertson.

Newtown Arts Festival:

- Terry Sagedy reported that the Arts Festival Committee met last week to share ideas and provide updates. Jim and Jennifer Cebry are working on grounds plans. The possibility of a band shell and placement of the food court were discussed. Donna Monteleone Randle asked Jennifer if she would look into the appropriate place to showcase automobiles if an automobile dealer wishes to sponsor the festival. Terry also reported that he is scheduling a brainstorming meeting specific to theatre. Maureen Trotto offered her office space as a meeting place.
- Terry related that the Rooster Ball Committee would hold a meeting tomorrow to begin planning.
- Donna Mangiafico displayed the winning illustration for the 2014 Festival. Laura will interview the winning artist and prepare a press release in the coming weeks.
- Beth Young asked Terry Sagedy to explain what the Literary Tent encompasses. Terry related that Kelley Johnson is spearheading the literary events, which will include book signings, poetry readings/slams, lectures, etc.

Grants & Scholarships:

- Jen Rogers reported that Rebecca, of HK Consulting Group, is working on her interviews and background information and a narrative.
- Donna Monteleone Randle and Andrea Spencer stated that the scholarship applications have gone out to websites, Facebook pages, schools, and a press release was done. Kitty Latowicki and Peg Regaini will be assisting students with the packets.

Cultural Arts Center:

- Terry Sagedy stated that Pat Llodra is meeting with EverWonder about the possibility of Plymouth Hall becoming a multipurpose facility. EverWonder is looking into mothballing the building and a feasibility study is due in mid-April.

Newsletter & Website:

- Lindsay stated that the next newsletter would be out by the end of the week.
- Laura is working with Valerie to harvest emails through Eventbrite registrations.

Other Business:

- Maureen Trotto announced that “God of Carnage” would open April 25th in Brookfield (Beth Young is starring in it).
- Maureen has had to reschedule two meetings with Mr. Keylock due to weather. She also stated that he is having a Poetry Slam on April 29th.

- Donna Monteleone Randle shared information about the US Army Rock Band. They will be in Newtown on March 26 and 27 and will offer a free concert. She will send more details to Lindsay and Jen Rogers for the newsletter when she has them.
- The amendments to the NCAC By-Laws were discussed and approved. Donna Mangiafico motioned to approve Laura's recommended slate of Standing Committee Chairs, which was seconded and approved.
- Jennifer Rogers shared information about the 1939 Celebration of Films. She is currently working with the Edmond Town Hall Board of Managers. Her idea is to present these films one weekend a month and would include children's movies in the afternoon. She also shared some fun activities to go along with the movies. Jen will discuss funding and what is expected from the NCAC and report back.
- Maureen Trotto spoke of fun sculpture races that took place years ago at the Norwalk Art Festival. Sculptors would run with sculptures in hand. The event was fun to watch and participate in.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Mangiafico