

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission
Thursday, October 8, 2015
Meeting Minutes

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at Town Hall South.

Members Present: John Conk, Rob Kaiser, Laura Lerman, Donna Mangiafico, Jen Rogers, and Andrea Spencer

Members Absent: Jen Cebry, Robert Rabinowitz, and Donna Randle

Auxiliary Members: Elaine Barbera, Linda Parsloe, Terry Sagedy, and Maureen Trotto

Guests: None

Laura Lerman called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

The Newtown Arts Festival was discussed. Terry Sagedy reviewed the programs/events that were offered as part of the 2015 festival. Donna Mangiafico announced that the 2015 Newtown Arts Festival Survey is ready to go. She will email it to contacts and post a link on Facebook.

Suggestions for next year:

- Dates for next year's outdoor festival were discussed. September 17 & 18 are most likely.
- Jen Rogers suggested adding a well-known band concert to the line-up, which would attract patrons as well as sponsors. John Conk agreed that a well-known band would raise awareness about the festival as well as help raise money. He will contact promoters to see if there is any interest.
- Maureen Trotto would like to find ways to get youth more involved in the festival – particularly with social media – blogs, Instagram, the Vine, Twitter, etc. She will reach out to the high school media staff to discuss. Jen Rogers revisited the idea of involving high school students in an app design for the commission/festival.
- Laura Lerman will submit a press release stating that the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission is seeking Auxiliary Members. The release will note that individuals do not have to be artists to be in the Auxiliary. In addition to general interest, specific skills are needed: Marketing, Fundraising/Sponsorship, and Safety/Security.
- Several areas require additional volunteers – signage and artisan set-up were mentioned.
- Donna Mangiafico reminded committee chairs that she is collecting procedures and contacts for all areas to add to a drop box folder that will be available to NCAC members and committee chairs. She is also working on on-line, fillable forms, which will help capture contact information in the future. A volunteer form, artisan application, and sponsorship form are in the works.
- Donna Mangiafico would like numbered artisan booths added to the festival map.
- Maureen Trotto stated that the value of the entry fee should be communicated better. Live entertainment, workshops, presentations, art exhibits, and more are at no extra cost.

Other Business:

Linda Parsloe shared information about a presentation to the NCCC she is currently working on. Rob Kaiser, Laura Lerman, and Maureen Trotto offered their assistance if she needs it. Linda will review in more detail at the next NCAC meeting on Tuesday, October 27th.

Public participation: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Mangiafico