

## Cultural Arts Commission

May 12, 2016

### Meeting Minutes

The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission held a meeting on Thursday May 12, 2016 at Town Hall South.

Members Present: Laura Lerman, Rob Kaiser, John Conk, Jen Cebry, Andrea Spencer, Tracy VanBuskirk, Donna Randle, Rob Kaiser

Members Absent: Robert Rabinowitz

Auxiliary Members: Maureen Trotto, Elaine Barbera

Guests: Mary Fellowes

Laura Lerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

☐ **Minutes:** Minutes of the Thursday April 14, 2016, NCAC meeting, approved unanimously (motion by Jen Cebry; second by Donna Randle)

☐ **Officers Report:**

☐ **Chair:** Met with Andrea Spencer. Martin Blanco, Gaines, Wes Thompson about Town Hall;

Attended a meeting of the EDC to discuss the cultural life of Newtown;

We have one applicant for membership, Scott Switzer. He will be interviewed by the RTC next week.

☐ **Andrea Spencer (Vice Chair):** None

○ **Robert Rabinowitz (Secretary):** Absent

☐ **Treasurer's Report absent;** Laura Lerman will be checking the Commission mailbox, forwarding invoices and depositing checks in Donna M's absence

○ With Donna moving we now need to have someone volunteer to take over as Treasurer

□ **Public Participation:** Mary Fellowes presented a compelling view of the future of the Hook and Ladder Firehouse after the firemen leave. Showing pictures, she suggested that the Firehouse could be turned into an Art Annex to Town Hall. The rumor is that taking down the firehouse could cost \$350,000 and two professionals, (Jacqueline Salame, architect, and engineer Kevin Archer) have indicated that, for that same amount, the Firehouse could be rehabilitated. Ms Salame and Mr. Archer have given some time looking at the firehouse on a volunteer basis. In order to do a more thorough analysis, they have requested \$2500 each. This is a deeply discounted rate for the proposed work. Mary asked the Commission to consider paying that \$5000. There was no motion with the idea that the members of the Commission would begin discussion at the next meeting.

□ **Donations**

○ Robert sent a list of donations we have received. We will be discussing how best to monetize them to support the Arts Festival. Tag sale and silent auction were both mentioned.

□ **2016 Arts Festival** (Terry Sagedy) Terry was not there. An Arts Festival meeting was held on Tuesday, May 10.

□ **Film Festival** – next film is Grease on May 22.

□ Poet Laureate Report (Lisa) was not present.

□ **NCAC Scholarships and Grants: Donna.**

○ The Committee has finished its work. The Scholarships will be announced on Awards Night, June 11. Andrea and Laura will present the awards.

○ Donna has been working with Linda Watson to arrange a tag sale along with the VFW. The money raised would be dedicated to a line item, Scholarships and Grants, and the VFW essay contests. The tag sale would be held on the grounds of the VFW hall, which is in a highly visible location. Details and date to be announced



□ **Library Showcase, Laura.** Quilts by Lois has ended. Lois reported that the exhibit increased her customer base. Polymer clay showcasing two Newtown Artists has begun. In the future the showcases will go from the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month to the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month.

□ **Municipal Center Gallery;** Laura

- Currently showing at the Municipal Center Gallery is Glen River until May 31
- When we began scheduling the Municipal Center Gallery, we had empty months. Once we began soliciting artists and publicized their shows, artists started calling us. We are booked through March.

□ Laura presented the cost of ordering signs whenever the Gallery is open on a Sunday. Probably will start in July.

□ **Social Media** (Robert R)

- Regular posts continue to be made to the NCAC Facebook Page

□ **Other Business:** Jen Cebrey said the art work now at Braun will be inspected on Saturday, May 21, starting at 9 am. She needs volunteers at 8 am to remove the artwork from the crates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura E. Lerman

Newtown Cultural Arts Commission

2016 Meeting Dates

Tuesdays - 7:00 PM

All meetings to be held at: Conference room at Town Hall South unless otherwise noted

2016 Meeting Schedule

January 14

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8

2017 NCAC Meeting Schedule

January 12