



MINUTES

December 30, 2009 - 10am-11am
T1 Conference Room; City Hall (Temp. Location)

Commissioners Present: Steve Criss; Lynn Gelormino; Jessica Hodorski; Gail Kruppa; Tim Wallace; Jacque Williams.

Members Present: N/A

I. Call to Order- 10:12 am

- A. Motion Lynn Gelormino
- B. Second: Jessica Hodorski

II. Acceptance of Previous Minutes- Accepted

- B. Motion: Gail Kruppa
- C. Accepted: Steve Criss

III. 2008-2009 Initiatives: These are the events that the 1-year old Commission has successfully run and promoted this year. The commission is looking to maintain these events and enhance them for 2010.

A. Non Event Initiatives

- i. Singer/Songwriter Network
- ii. Artspace Torrington
- iii. www.DiscoverTorrington.com
- iv. Torrington Mural Project
- v. Republican-American Weekly Calendar of Events

B. Event Initiatives

- i. Lincoln Days (THS Civil War Reenactment)
- ii. CT Open House Day
- iii. Torrington Days
- iv. Light-Up Main

IV. 2010 Looking Forward

A. Non Event Initiatives

- i. Artspace Torrington: Great introduction during CT Open House Day, now the Commission needs to maintain the momentum and sit down with each landlord and work out an artists specific price list and list of available spaces. It is desirable that each landlord offer a discounted price to artists, which will give artists more opportunity to rent of gallery and/or studio space on a monthly or yearly basis. The

Commission and the property owners needs to reach an understanding how each can benefit from Artspace while promoting artists and the available space downtown. The Commission suggested having Artwell or a member of Artwell spearhead getting the word out to the artists, since they have a cohesive list available. The Commission would also like to involve the TDC in reaching out to the property owners, possibly having the TDC spearhead an initiative to promote Artspace and help maintain the “gallery” spaces offered. A meeting dedicated specifically to Artspace Torrington will be scheduled.

- ii. Singer/Songwriter Network: Many venues are on board and are will to promote the SS Network in their facilities. Once a cohesive list of musicians is available, the Commission can begin to focus on educational workshops for the musicians and promoting their names to local venues. Jacque will set up a meeting to discuss the progress and will report back at the January meeting. Thus far, the SS Network is going well and the response has been positive.
- iii. Torrington Mural Project- Tabled.
- iv. Torrington Arts Resource Report: The Commission’s goal of 2010 is to put together a resource report that surveys local arts and culture venues about their organization’s targeted demographics and initiatives in order to get a better sense of what the Commission can do to promote arts and culture and draw in outside funding groups and agencies. Anyone with data about their organization should email Lynn and the group will come together to create and distribute a survey.
- v. Workshop Initiatives for Arts Community: Offer educational workshops geared towards helping arts and cultural organizations promote and build clientele and run a successful organization.
- vi. Children’s Museum Exploratory Process- Steve brought to the table the possibility of creating a Children’s Museum. There are guidebooks available that outline a strategic plan on how to go about the process. The Commission agreed to look into the possibility and will try to get the ball rolling. From there, a separate committee will have to be dedicated to organizing the museum and establishing it. Lynn Gelormino volunteered to gather some information and bring it to the January meeting.

B. Event Initiatives

- i. Main Street Market Place (14 Thursday Nights: June 3-September 2, 2010; 5-9pm: Replace CT Open House Day; Close off downtown for the evening and have vendors selling goods. Perhaps have a corporate sponsor and also nightly sponsors.
- ii. Torrington Day 2010
- iii. Light-Up Main 2010

V. Open Floor

- A. Press Night: 2009- Warner Theatre, January 9th at 7:00 pm: Fox 61 News and Lite 100.5 will be at the Press Night.
- B. In the future, the Commission may consider setting up a Northwest Corner Arts Festival. Up for later discussion at a later date.

VI. Upcoming ACT Meeting

A. Official ACT Meeting- January 27th 10 am - City Hall

VII. Call to a Close: 11:20 am

A. Motion:Lynn Gelormino

B. Second:Jacque Williams