



Minutes

August 25, 2010 | 10:00am – 11am | City Hall

Commissioners Present: Steve Criss, Diane Consolini, Aurora Daly, Lynn Gelormino, Jessica Hodorski, Julia Sloan, Jacque Williams.

Members Present: Tom Bott; Ginger Dean; Cindy Donaldson; Bill Haygood; Teresa and John Sullivan; Bill Haygood.

I. **Call To Order:** 10:06am

Motion: Steve Criss

Second: Lynn Gelormino

II. **Acceptance of previous Meeting Minutes-** Accepted

Motion: Julia Sloan

Second: Lynn Gelormino

III. **Commissioners: Nomination of Officers**

Chairperson Nominee: Steve Criss

Vice Chairperson Nominee: Lynn Gelormino

Secretary Nominee: Jessica Hodorski

Elimination of Co-Chair position: Agreed

Voting for officers did not take place. It was concluded that bi-laws must be revised to include term limits and the addition of a Vice Chair before voting can take place. Voting and amending the bi-laws will take place in September. If anyone wishes to throw in his/her name to be nominated for an officer position, please do so by the next meeting. **Special Notes: Invite Ernestine to next ACT meeting and send any funding/legal questions to Rose or Ernestine.**

IV. **Sub Committee Reports:**

A. **ACT Membership** (Tom Bott/Aurora Daly)- Please see minutes from May for full description of membership policies. At the September meeting, the bi-laws will be revised to accommodate membership information. Tom Bott and Aurora Daly should speak with Ernestine about the legality of their proposal.

B. **Torrington Mural Project** (Cindy Donaldson/Tom Bott)- Tabled until further information is available on the legality and long-term possibility of the Libby's building site.

C. **DiscoverTorrington.com** (Steve Criss)- Official tourism website of Torrington. Please send any new information/events to Steve Criss and please upload events to the NWCT Arts Council calendar. Cindy Donaldson asked about selling banner ads; Steve agreed that it was a good idea and will look into it. The Mill Town Collective has been approached about selling their merchandise on the site. It was suggested to add in a "In the Press" tab to include all press articles and clippings.

D. **Singer/Songwriter Network** (Jacque Williams)- Please see *Attachment A*

- E. **Main Street Marketplace** (Steve Criss)- Last MSMP is tomorrow evening; Rocket Street Fine Foods will showcase their new food truck and there will be many other great events. The marketplace will start up again in July of 2011. Cindy Donaldson and EDC would like to thank the committee for their hard work and for creating a buzz about downtown Torrington. This will hopefully encourage others to host events downtown. Overall, MSMP was a success this year and many are looking forward to it taking place again next year.
- F. **Artspace:Torrington** (Steve Criss)- Has been renamed to Arts Incubator Initiative, in hopes of fostering a supportive arts community downtown. The initiative must wait and see who will own the buildings downtown before the initiative can move forward. Research can be done and ready to present to potential owners. It would be good to talk to Artwell and include their Artwell 2.0 initiative.
- G. **Torrington Arts Resource Report** (Steve Criss/Lynn Gelormino)- Please email any statistics to Lynn Gelormino ASAP.
- H. **Downtown Arts Education Collaborative** (Steve Criss)- Proposing to put together a listing of all classes/workshops taking place in Downtown Torrington for the spring of 2011 and make it available to the public.

V. Open Floor

- A. **Fall Festival/Oktoberfest** – Friday October 22nd 6pm – 10pm (Subcommittee: Jacque Williams, Steve Criss, Cindy Donaldson, Rose Ponte, Diane Consolini)
 - i. SUGGESTIONS:
 - Costume Parade/Costume contest
 - Pumpkin Carving Exhibition (Bring Pumpkins for display)
 - Food Vendors
 - Ghost Hunters Live – 8pm
 - Rocky Horror – 8pm
 - Cemetery/Haunted Downtown Tours – 5:30pm
 - Haunted House? – 8pm
 - Farmers Market – 6-8pm
 - Fire performance
 - Jugglers/Stilt walkers/unicyclists
 - Outdoor movie on Main Street – Nightmare Before Christmas? Donna September
 - Zombie Parade
 - B. **Northwest CT Arts Council/LAA meeting**: Meeting to talk about and discuss the role of the NWCT Arts Council and ACT in the region. Steve and Rose will report back after the meeting in September.

VI. Upcoming ACT Meetings

- A. Official ACT Meeting – Sept 29th 10am – City Hall

VI. Call to Close: 11:20am

Motion: Jessica Hodorski

Second: Jacque Williams

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Hodorski, *Secretary*

Attachment A

SINGER/SONGWRITER NETWORK

GENERAL REPORT

8/25/10

Current activities: Planning and implementation of one year anniversary celebration of the singer/songwriter network of Torrington, Ct. Event activities include; Monday, September 20th "featured performer" Joey Sexton @ T-Place Sports Bar & Grill 6 to 9pm; Tuesday, September 21st- Champagne toast @ Nirvana Health & Juice Bar; Wednesday September 22nd @ The Torrington Historical Society 5 to 8pm (outdoor performance) w "featured artist" Gale Gardner; and "The Grand Finale" Sunday September 26th 4 to 7pm @ The Nancy Marine Studio; Featuring "Buzz Turner, Eric Parradine, Bill Benson, Coyote, and Mark Papallo. We are also negotiating with The Nutmeg Conservatory Orchestra to accompany these performing artists. There will be a one year anniversary sub-committee meeting Wednesday, August 25th 3:00 in room 314 at city hall.

The singer/songwriter network currently has 100 enrolled members. The network has drafted the use of facebook to help administrate daily operations and communications. The facebook service has garnered the recognition of over 500 "fans" to help promote and market the network to entities and interests that otherwise may not have been reached by other marketing avenues. We feel that facebook has been a positive step forward in obtaining and disseminating information that is relevant to the local music community in regards to it's growth and development. The network would like to engage with the commission (A.C.T.) for more discussions on how they can work together more closely and come up with ideas and strategies that will help both down town venues and venues throughout greater Torrington.

It has been a tough year for the entertainment business, but what this year has shown us is that we must seize the opportunities as they arise or our industry will not survive. The singer/songwriter network is here to support what appears to be a burgeoning artistic community to facilitate a process that has been abandoned in the current hysteria of musical hype ad naseum. There are artists who play and perform for the love and passion of their musical ideas. Those are the artists we want to support. The services we ultimately want to provide, will help the artists by leveredging their time and maximizing their resources. We hope to create a win-win relationship where they the artists, and the city of Torrington come out on top.

Submitted by _____
Singer/ Songwriter Network