

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monthly Meeting –May 7, 2019
Enfield Public Library at 6:30 pm

Present

Emily McIntosh, Donna Hamre, Joshua Hamre, Marguerite French, Jason Neely, Bill Kiner, Elizabeth Szewczyk, Cindy Laurie

We reviewed meeting minutes from the March meeting. Minutes were accepted and approved by Emily McIntosh, 2nd by Joshua Hamre, all in favor. There was no meeting in April.

Chairperson's Remarks

The Paul Bisaccia concert went well, positive feedback was received. We spent \$118 on refreshments. Emily purchased cake and donuts. The donuts were not well received, the patrons preferred the cake. There were 197 tickets pre-sold, tickets were also sold at the door. Profit totals will be announced at the next meeting. One thing to remember for the next show is to request that a microphone be set up for Paul. The custodian was able to get one set up prior to the show without incident.

The Women's Club Art Show at Enfield High School went well. The show was impressive and we were able to speak to patrons about the mini grant program.

Next month at our June meeting, we will be taking nominations for officers, the Chairperson position is open for nominations.

We will not be meeting in July or August. We will discuss September's Sidewalk chalk contest at Family Day during our June meeting to ensure that we are all set for supplies.

We will also decide if we want to reserve Paul Bisaccia for a Fall performance or Spring of next year.

Treasurer's Report

No updates.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

Several board members are up for re-appointment through the town website to maintain membership on the commission. Members were encouraged to submit their applications to continue with ECAC.

The Paul Bisaccia concert was well received by the patrons of the Senior Center, they loved his performance.

The Enfield Public Library will be launching their Instrument Lending Library in June. 10 Ukuleles were received today. The library is planning on having an instructor do a group lesson. She will bring 20 instruments with her for the lesson and 10 students will be able to check out the instruments to bring home that night.

Old Business-

Reviewed updates on Instrument Lending Library, Women's club Art show and Paul Bisaccia concert.

New Business –

Elizabeth Szewczyk attended as a special guest to speak about a Poet Laureate for the Town of Enfield. Elizabeth is a published poet of 4 volumes. She explained that there is not currently an appointed Poet Laureate in town. Elizabeth provided the board a summary of the responsibilities of an appointed Poet Laureate and the opportunities that would be available to the town if we appointed one. The Poet Laureate is a volunteer position, they would be appointed at no cost to the town or the commission. Some of the opportunities would include visiting schools to talk to students about poetry, reading and writing poetry. They would also be available to read poetry at Parades and Celebrations in town, present poetry workshops, work with the library, facilitate the publication of an anthology of poetry by community members, etc.

The town is considering a Sustainable Connecticut initiative, having a Poet Laureate is a suggested step to qualifying for that program. Elizabeth Szewczyk is very interested in being our Poet Laureate.

ECAC will work to come up with an application for the position. It was suggested that after creating the application, ECAC go before the Town Council to get the initiative rolling. We need the Town Council to vote on the position and the Poet Laureate will need to be sworn in by a member of the Town Council. The Poet Laureate will work with the Town Council. Jason and Emily will work on the application, they will research the towns/cities of Glastonbury, West Hartford, Simsbury, and Middletown who have appointed Poet Laureates. ECAC will need to request a special session before the Town Council prior to an official Town Council meeting. Advertising for interested applicants will be done through the Town Council meeting, Press Release and posting the information on our Facebook page.

The Town is considering participating in the Sustainable CT Initiative. There are 10 categories such as Economic Development, Environmental, Vibrant and Cultural Ecosystems, etc. In order to meet the requirements for the category the town will need to meet 3 of 11 criteria in each category. ECAC falls under the category of Vibrant and Cultural Ecosystems and with our efforts, we meet at least 3 of the criteria. Jason will be meeting with the group later this month and will provide an update at our next meeting.

Miscellaneous-

We have encouraged members of the Jack O Lantern Festival to submit a mini grant application. It was explained that we do not meet in July or August and they should submit an application soon to be considered for their October event.

A motion to vote on granting a maximum of \$500 prior to receiving the mini grant application was made. The vote is contingent upon successful completion of the application with a passing score. Board members will review the Mini grant application upon receipt and score via email with a yes or no score. If the vote is no, a commission member will reach out to JOLF to obtain further information. Emily will coach whoever is stepping in to be the newly nominated Chairperson.

Emily motioned a vote, all voted in favor of a maximum grant allocation of \$500.

Opera House Players Update:

The carpeting has been replaced in the main hall. They will be working on preparing the basement for soil testing prior to additions to the building being made.

The town has approved OHP to host events at the 100 High St location while renovations continue to be made.

The OHP just completed opening weekend of "Newsies" with 600 tickets sold for the weekend. The show will run for 2 more weekends at the Annex (Formerly Fermi High School)

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at the Enfield Public Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hamre, Secretary