

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Via Zoom 6:30 pm

Present

Emily McIntosh, Damon Patnoe, Donna Hamre, Joshua Hamre, Jennefer Ryan, Emily Clifford, Jason Neely, John Santanella, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Steph MacGillivray, Lori Unghire

Approval of prior minutes: Jennefer made a motion to accept the minutes, Damon 2nd the motion. Minutes accepted.

Chairperson's Remarks

none

Staff Liaison Remarks

No mini grant applications have been received. We will be reviewing budget tonight. The Zoom account has been renewed.

Old Business:

Opera House Players documents were sent over to Susan, the Executive Director. The renovations, Torchlight Parade and future events were discussed. They are still welcome to the idea of the sponsor plaque from ECAC in their new building.

We discussed the BOE Liaison position on the ECAC Board. Joshua is interested in the position. This would open another spot on the ECAC board. We will have to vote on the addition of the position and it will be re-written in the bi-laws and be submitted to the town for approval effective our next meeting. The addition of the BOE Liaison position will build the connection to the schools. Emily C. commented what has been brought up in the past of having many people from other town committees on the very small ECAC board with the concern that it will shift the balance of the ECAC board. Emily M. commented that the Liaison is there to bring us information and bring information back. Looking at the committee as a whole and looking across the board to get some of our initiative out, we can reconvene as a group if the new position is not working. Motion was made to create the BOE Liaison position by Emily M, 2nd by Damon. Vote 5/6 in favor.

The Poet Laureate Book Grant that was awarded for books to be handed out at the September Family Day event will be finalized over the course of 2 upcoming library readings. Any extra books not handed out at the readings will be collected and divided up between the schools. She will submit her invoices for the purchased books and ensure that all the books that were purchased were distributed for free.

The Women's Club Arts Festival contacts have been made with Nancy from the Women's Club. She is working with Chris from Facilities to have a 12x12 space available for ECAC to hand out our mini grant info as well as the coloring book/pencil sets with our logo on them. Emily C, Emily M. and Damon will be present at the event.

Last year's budget accounted for a concert series with an approved budget of \$2000 which was not completed due COVID. Emily M. proposed that we invite the Horizon Blue Band to play at next summer's Farmer's market which runs June-October. The exact dates of the Farmers market have not been announced yet. The band plays Folk music and offers a mixture of covers and original music. Emily M. is proposing that we book them 2 Sunday's/month. The total pricing would be \$2700. \$300 per performance for 9 performances. The previous budget for the concert series was \$2000. We would need to vote on the additional \$700. In the event of inclement weather, they could play in the gazebo. The ease of this event is that the Farmers Market already has an established set up.

We can advertise on social media for other bands to see if there is additional interest. We will hold off on voting until next month. Suggestion was to pilot 1 Sunday/month and add on as needed.

We reviewed the suggested purchases for the Movies in the Park equipment. The PA System, projector and 2 additional 25 ft cables. The screen has already been purchased. If the event is well received, we may want to upgrade the equipment in the future. Steph owns a Rockville DJ set herself. She suggested adding cable covers to prevent damage and tripping for safety reasons.

Emily M. reached out to Mark Garr from Public Works to inquire about using the Annex for the event. John Santanella suggested ETV as an additional resource. The total cost for the speaker, projector and cords is \$966.91. The items are on sale now. The original budget was \$2200, the screen has already been purchased. All voted in favor of the purchase.

Donna suggested ECAC host an Enfield Pride Game Night in collaboration with the Enfield Pride Group at the Library on June 28th. ECAC can help to secure the event location and provide refreshments. The Enfield Pride group has not had a good response with their last event and are not looking to do a big scale Town Green event. The game night was proposed to help identify community interest by hosting the event outside of the United Church of Christ location where they have been holding their meetings.

Jason confirmed that the library is already book that evening for a book club meeting. It was suggested that the Enfield Pride group apply for a mini grant to apply for funding rather than ECAC host the event. The mini grant could cover the fee for buildings and grounds to secure the location as well as cover the cost of refreshments for the event. Jennefer suggested that they mirror Longmeadow Pride for event planning.

New Business

The Poet Laureate position was created due to a requirement for the Sustainable CT Program. The town had come to us to full fill the cultural aspects of the grant. Due to COVID, the town was not able to meet the full criteria for the program. Ellen Zoppo-Sassu is still interested in

applying for sustainable CT, she is looking at it again after the budget process for next September. She would encourage us to still make ourselves available. Emily will work on getting the press release for a new poet laureate to Jason.

Movies in the Park movie selections were Cruella and Sand lot. All voted in favor of Sand Lot for the cost of \$375. The date will be July 16th, with a rain date of July 23rd. Emily M. reached out to the warming center to handle individually wrapped refreshments and drinks as a fundraiser for their program. Emily reached out to Mark Garr, director for public works to ask about the Annex location, if we could use it, and information regarding electrical and a port-a-potty. She is waiting for a response.

ECAC could use the facility without charge, we would have to look into the cost of having a police presence and the fees for the dedicated time slots.

All voted in favor of \$375 for the event with the Annex being the first choice for a location.

Emily C. is working on the ECAC Photo Calendar Contest. The deadline for photo submissions would be September, voting would be in October. ECAC could hold a photo show in Oct/Nov at the Pearl St Library using the gallery hanging system where the reception would feature the final contestants. We can print the calendars and disperse them for free. We discussed limiting the photo submissions to Enfield residents only and decided not to limit ourselves for the submissions. We will highlight both amateurs and professionals to be open to all photographer levels. The criteria is that the photos have to be of Enfield. This will bring people to Enfield. Details for the contest will be shared in the contest rules. We will accept family friendly, horizontal images only. Photos will need to be renamed for submission to make it easier to sort and organize the photos for review. We will accept up to 5 entries per submission. The submissions will include digital rights to be able to use the photos on other town platforms.

Prizes will be gift cards to eliminate the need for w-9 forms. There will be 13 winners at \$50 gift card per winner to total \$650 in prizes.

Emily C. is researching prices for printing, she is looking for a local printer but also looking into minuteman press and the online printing websites. We discussed printing 5000 calendars for a cost of \$4000 on average. We discussed limiting the order to 1000 calendars for the first year. Emily C. will have a printing cost for next meeting. Final budget TBD.

Emily M. is not able to run a cooking workshop due to her employment contract.

Emily M. offered a meditation and breathwork workshop. 10 classes next fall for the cost of \$1000. The classes would be limited to 20 people/session for a cost of \$5 per person for 10 sessions. A question was posed to what similar workshops already exist in town. The recreation department offers a yoga and Adult Education offers cooking classes.

We reviewed the budget submission. The calendar would come from our current funds. Marketing is on our current budget as well. We will be removing the Jack-o-lantern festival from the budget due to the time constraints and editing the Family Day event name. Jason will be submitting the finalized budget.

Miscellaneous:

none

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 6:30 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary