

Enfield Culture & Arts Commission Meeting Minutes
Monthly Meeting: Thursday, August 3, 2023
6:30pm Town Hall, Scitico Room and via TEAMS

Roll Call: Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Chris and Christina Tetreault, Steph MacGillivray, Joshua Hamre, Debbie Kruzel, Joyce Bolanos, Nzima Hutchings,

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting: Steph made a motion, Nzima 2nd, all in favor.

Chairperson's Remarks:

This commission has come along a long way. Progress of projects have been slow but they are happening.

Emily had called Chris Tetreault and asked him if he could price out the butterfly wings project. He and his wife Christina presented slides showing his ideas and he also brought two mockups of the wings, posts, and the stencils. It was an amazing presentation and the group was impressed with the mock-ups—truly works of art. If we want to buy this prototype set (adult and child sized wings) then it would be \$1500. It would be less in higher quantities and we also have the option to order some “blank” so other artists or schoolchildren could paint them. We will postpone butterfly wings until September. They will have a longer life if they are removed for winter months.

We will talk with Jason about the budget, we should schedule part 2 of our workshop and set aside blocks of money for specific projects. We will plan that for our September meeting. Summer concerts should be over by then and our meetings will be back to Tuesdays as planned.

Waiting on the fiberglass figures discussion.

At our last meeting we had Russ Salk come talk to us about performing arts, Russ Salk is a gentleman that loves music and poetry and feels that the performing artists in Enfield don't get enough recognition and would like to do something. Russ followed up with an email with other ideas. give kids promotional award, Tshirt, mug, or small trophy. Focus on Performing arts at the High School. Once school starts up, she would like to reach out to the

Drama clubs or other groups at the school to find out what/how they recognize the students and we could go from there. We are still working on possibilities. His idea is a good one but really too broad.

Steph did acknowledge that Enfield does have an Athletic Hall of Fame but unknown what recognition there is.

Josh: There is a lot of talent out there, Tri-M national Program for music recognition, Enfield Instrumental Music Association that encompasses Band and Choral groups. As far as the dance groups, Riley's, has incredible talent. We could showcase Rileys as a local business.

Russ wants to recognize every single young performer. Joyce believes that it should be by merit and we should work with the teachers.

A community Talent show could be an idea at the Bandshell. "Enfield's Got Talent" to incorporate all talent.

There is a draught with performers for 20-50's we should focus on that group, beyond the youth and the Seniors.

We should start thinking more broadly on how to be intergenerational and not segregate anyone out and break down generational stereotypes

We need to think more about social media, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok to take a broader approach.

Someone is promoting Open Mic in the JI which is helping us to reach a larger audience.

All the community colleges in the state are all under 1 umbrella, CT State Community College (Asnuntuck) Changes could be going into effect this Fall. Valley Rep theater is a concern for space. Joyce will reach out to Asnuntuck to find out more about the community programs.

The Salas mural meeting has not happened yet. The meeting will be set up with Emily, Jason, Joyce, Ronnie Salas, Matt and Chris will be at the meeting.

When on Social Media, commission members should not engage with the conversations. Community members can read the minutes and private message ECAC. With emails, always be careful who is on the email chain with responding Replying to All.

Our Monthly meeting is a good place to discuss and disagree, but when we go out to the community, we need to be united in terms respecting the discussion and voting process. If people want more information, they can read the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: not present

Staff Liaison's Remarks: not present

BOE Liaison's Remarks: Summer break, there is no business being conducted. Josh is excited about us getting into the schools to connect with the arts and culture. He is happy to see the work that is going forward. For the Band Series, the band shell is much smaller than the stage that is being used. That will have to be considered with future performers that will use the bandshell. Reggae, Jazz bands, Concert Bands, the smaller bandshell will lend itself to more intimate settings. We could use screens for added dimension to help enhance the audience who will be sitting further away. Could we collaborate with ETV to hook up to the cameras.

Suffield Sound is doing the stage and sound now, he may be able to help to support with a solution. Production companies can assist and join with Public Access TV.

Debbie suggested partnering with the Brewery and Winery in town, we cannot have them on the town green selling their alcohol. We could seek a sponsorship from them to get their name involved. They could apply for a permit to serve on the town green but ECAC cannot because we are not a non-profit. We will have to start thinking about sponsorships for the concerts to continue in the future.

Debbie is interested in helping us fundraise. Looking for cross promotion, donations of in-kind. Polish Deli as a location for events.

We could organize an ECAC Gala to raise money as a fundraiser. Black tie gala, silent auction, recognize cultural organizations and local artist, visual arts, music, sculpture,

Emily shared with Debbie that we are a small commission with very limited volunteers, the timeline might be slower, we should start small.

Debbie's opinion is to start smaller and work up to the gala. We will not get the attendance if we go too big. To start smaller: a focused event for entertainment. Talent show or Cabaret style show. Locations: Hazardville institute, Polish deli, Grassmere Country Club, small wine tasting,

Debbie has done comedy events, she will start doing the groundwork.

We will be put this on the agenda for a future month, October agenda. Enfield High Culinary Department could cater.

Old Business:

Wings in the Park: update from Can't Miss Chris. displayed the butterfly wings, discussion

Motion to extend Hazardville Memorial Mini Grant, motion passes.

New Business:

Meet ECAC Applicant Debbie Kruzel

Sidewalk chalk contest for Family Day, prizes \$20 to Michaels. \$100 from our budget. We do not need to purchase any more chalk because we have backstock.

We voted on this, vote passes.

Marketing for Band Shell was very difficult due to the rain dates/schedules, so the posters were often being revised weekly. Copies of posters were not made because of this difficulty.

A Frame to put outside for Open-Mic, inserts for our events happening at the library. We need bigger posters to advertise Open Mic Nights. Emily will follow up with Jason about the poster and advertisements for ECAC events. We need to approve a higher budget for marketing. Nzima recommends Walgreens for posters and prints due to discounts and coupons that are provided frequently.

We would like to keep the Open Mic events at the library into 2024. .

Oli B has been emailing ECAC email regarding her Community Center dream. Her program will be based in Enfield. She is not an Enfield resident. She is also working with Adult Ed. She is interested in doing a drum and song gathering at the Town Green, Hazardville park, other park location ideas. We will need to find out from Jason if there is a cost for park usage. We can look at using the Band Shell. We will need to learn the process for reserving the band shell. ECAC can sponsor her free event but she cannot make money off of the event.

Steph motioned to approve \$400 for Kids crafts, all voted in favor.

We will wait on Lauren's mini grant until September.

Nzima will be at the next concert representing ECAC.

There will be a press release for Nzima's appointment as poet laureate soon.

Miscellaneous:

Debbie's application will be approved by the Town Council, ECAC does not get a say in her appointment, we wanted her to join to meet the commission and learn more about the commission.

Adjournment: 8:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Hamre, Secretary