

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
October 3, 2023, 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Enfield Room

1. Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Joshua Hamre, Joyce Bolanos, Jason Neely, Emily Clifford, Steph MacGillivray, Dan Keating, Nzima Hutchings, not present: Lori Ungire, John Santanella, Deb Kruzel

2. Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

Steph made a motion to accept the minutes, Joyce 2nd.

3. Chairperson's remarks

ECAC has a standard, blank agenda, most commissions have a more detailed agenda. We are a public meeting; anyone is welcome to attend our meeting. Ellen was not aware that she was on the agenda tonight. We can update the agenda to add special guests. We will need to get the agenda to Linda a week and a half before the meeting to be posted to the website. The agenda will list the points of business that will need to be addressed. Additional agenda items will need to be added to the agenda via a motion to amend the agenda item. Adding a section for "public comment" in a limit of 5 minutes per person following the acceptance of the minutes and adding a line for "Items from the table" prior to adjournment. New Business: things that we will talk about. November we will keep the agenda generic but add the special guests to begin the transition to a new agenda. BOE Agenda could be a model. The Chairperson should brush up on Roberts Rules of Order.

4. Treasurer's Report

new expenditures, Kevin Crane for Open Mic, Lauren Mini grant, balance \$13484.64. Craft receipts will be turned into Jason tomorrow.

5. Staff Liaison's Remarks

A-Frame 36x24 ECAC's, water again at the library from a ruptured water main, a couple weeks ago sewer line backup. Repairs have been made to not impact Open Mic night.

6. TC Liaison's Remarks: not present

7. BOE Liaison's Remarks:

Election season, don't know what November 7th election will look like. Joshua would like to thank this commission for developing this liaison role. It is exciting to see what is happening in the community and in the schools, to bring everything else together. Joshua spoke about Cassandra Kubinski, a local artist who is working in NY and would like to get involved with ECAC with a concert, fundraiser with OHP, or a workshop type program in the schools (career day option at EHS to speak about being an artist. A link has been sent to our ECAC questionnaire.

OHP is having a Halloween themed event at 100 High Street in October. JFK's auditorium is still without a sound system.

8. Old Business

Community Paint Day Sat. 10/7 10:00am-3:00pm ECAC will have a table and tent. Sand art, chalk activity, Emily will be there, Joyce will stop by.

Jack O Lantern Fest 10/21 They have not reached out to ECAC. Last year we brought playdoh and non-allergen candies, we discussed voting to buy candy. Our participation would be beneficial for visibility in the community. ECAC could have a table away from the trick or treat lane. The carved pumpkins are artistic. Can we distribute something more artistic than candy? Emily will get in touch with JOLF tomorrow to see if they need our participation. We will call a special meeting if needed.

Vote: butterfly wings (Can't Miss Chris) \$1500 for the pair, wanted to talk to Beautification committee regarding a partnership. How do buildings and grounds feel about art in the parks, zoning? upkeep? The want is there but we are waiting for questions to be answered prior to spending. ECAC fund is a revolving fund and does carryover, between March-May the budget for next year will be approved for next year.

Can we have the butterfly as a soft launch, have it be a more mobile traveling art? Can be used as a photo op wherever we go. Low effort way to bring art with us. Steph made a motion to approve the purchase of the Butterfly wings, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor. Emily will talk to Ken and Mark Garr about future projects with the Beautification committee.

9. New Business

New artist exhibit at Pearl St. Library: Chris Gann's exhibit ended.

Kim Caruso-Poley, artist emphasizing texture in her Art. Friends of the Library will be sponsoring a reception, date TBD.

2024 Annual Planning activity.

Strategic plan for the upcoming year. What our community wants around arts and culture. Create action plans, develop preliminary budget for 2024.

Proposal projects:

- Concert with the EHS Jazz Band to kick off the Summer Concert Series in 2024, pay the student performers with an honorarium.
- Hold a traveling outdoor art exhibition that travels around town through the Spring/Summer. Have an annual theme.
- Hold a Visual Art/Seasonal Reset event: Art Wellness Fair. Featuring stations of poetry, yoga, drum circle, sound healing, painting
- Alice in Wonderland Tea Party a fusion of art and literacy. 2 sessions can be held. earlier in the day for a young audience, later in the day for teen/adult. The library could be the venue.
- ECAC weekend on the Green. Featuring Teacher's Talent Show, Art exhibition/show, performances in the bandshell, demonstration tables/tents with a drum circle, painting, sculpture, instruments, dance, culinary, poetry and mural art.
- Ren Faire at Brainard Park.

10. Miscellaneous

Joyce: Arts Policy proposal. Shared ideas for Arts Policy using City of Hartford as an example to funnel projects through ECAC. Policy would allow us to hold the town liaisons accountable if we have a policy in place.

Any policy must be approved by the Town Council. Having an established Arts Policy helps ECAC have a life span beyond the 2-year terms. Requests for support on a short-term basis, Policy required Town Council to notify us prior to scheduling events that would fall under ECAC.

ECAC is growing and looking to establish the commission to provide legitimacy and structure to the commission.

The document is specific to the expedited proposal. We should pair down the document to our mission and how to relate the document to the Town Council to add parameters to the suggestions. Put something in place to alleviate the tension of proposed projects and expectations.

Anyone is welcome to check out other town's policies. Joyce has a lot of expertise, look at towns that are more similar to Enfield. Pull ideas together. Create a document to clarify what we do and who we are to new Town Council members. Paragraph in the town charter. Plan Year in Review to present at the Town Council meeting: Annual Report.

November 14th next meeting: special guests
December meeting: Budget workshop
11. Adjournment 8:44pm

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hamre, Secretary