

## ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting– Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room 6:30 pm

### Present

Jason Neely, Donna Hamre, Joshua Hamre, Emily Clifford, Nzima Hutchings, Joyce Bolanos, John Santanella, Mary Keller, Olivia Ballinger

Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meetings by Emily Clifford, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Hamre. Minutes approved

### Chairperson's remarks:

Welcome to Joyce and Nzima.

### Treasurer's Report:

No change from last month's report, receipts from Sidewalk Chalk Contest will be deducted.

### Staff Liaison's Remarks:

We will move the next ECAC meeting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday which is Election Day to the first Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. (Donna and Joshua will not be present at that meeting due to a prior engagement). The Festival of Trees will be at the library again this December. There is money set aside in the budget to provide refreshments for the event. ECAC can submit a tree for the festival. The trees are made using ordinary everyday objects. Jason gave the examples of making past trees using old keys or National Geographic magazines.

The town is working with Rise Up CT for the Mural project. A potential location has been selected on a parking lot wall facing towards where the train station will be built. The mural concept has been presented.

### Old Business:

Mary Keller shared with the group the history of the Torchlight Parade. Mary started working with the parade in 1999 and the parade had been going on for many years before. Each year, by the end of the summer, she emails the Fire Chiefs in Enfield to see who is hosting the parade. They alternate each year. Hazardville Fire Department is hosting this year. They invite other communities to join the parade. They organize to include any non-religious community groups who would like to attend. They plan a full parade with the Fire Trucks, Ambulance, Boscors, etc.

The parade steps off at 6pm. Enfield Street School is the staging area and travels to the Town Green. The parade generally takes 45 min – 1 hour. The event ends with a Carol Sing from the School Music Departments. ECAC gives opening remarks and introduces the Mayor. The Mayor will introduce a child to light the Christmas Tree.

Mary contacts the Police Department to close the road, Buildings and Grounds to set up the green, gazebo and tree lights. Invitations are sent to the Town Council and Board of Education members to march in the parade. Santa rides in a sleigh in the parade. The school music departments lead a combined chorus where the students have programs with the lyrics. Safe

Harbor warming center offers hot chocolate and cookies as a fundraiser. Last year, the Poet Laureate was part of the program.

Anyone can join but no religious groups. ECAC in the past has handed out candles or candy canes. One year ECAC sponsored stilt walkers to be a part of the parade.

Mary works behind the scenes to help the event run smoothly. She makes the initial contacts for each department. Each group works independently to make it a success. It wraps up by 8pm (6pm-8pm 2 hour time limit).

Mary will email the contact information to be shared with any groups who would like to participate. In the past, the town did not want other winter/religious celebrations. We have the opportunity to be more inclusive to invite cultural groups to join such as the PEP group, Ujima African American Alliance as well as the Spanish, Jewish, Korean cultures to participate in the parade. The Powder Hollow Trolley could also be invited to join the parade.

The host fire department will create a flyer. In the past Enfield TV has not covered the event.

Another suggestion was to re-concept the event by adding burlapped trees to the town green and invite other cultural groups to decorate and light them as part of the event. We could partner with the Beautification committee to purchase the trees. Potential title would be “Christmas around the World” sponsored by the ECAC

Years ago, back in the 80’s, Enfield a winter festival. We could make a weekend of it, have a larger event during the day and have the parade at the end of the event.

ECAC will help identify groups to participate and invite Elizabeth Szewczyk, the Poet Laureate. We discussed Food Trucks which may be an option for a day long event in the future. ECAC will create a list of community groups to create a directory of contacts.

John offered to facilitate as a liaison with the Beautification Committee to secure the trees.

The board discussed putting a presentation together for an upcoming Town Council meeting to dispel misconceptions that may be thought with the mention of murals. The goal would be to present photos from other communities to education on the possibility of murals for Enfield.

#### Board of Education Liaison:

Joshua is looking to focus on the arts in the individual schools, focusing on JFK and EHS. He is involved in many community groups that are overlapping: Enfield Pride, ECAC, BOE, OHP and is looking forward to supporting the schools in ECAC.

#### New Business

Mini Grant was submitted by Hazardville Memorial School for a Mural project that would be created in collaboration with the Enfield High School Arts Department. The mural will be in the shape of a Dove and feature flags from the countries where the school families within their

community are from. The budget is \$500. Emily C. made a motion to accept the mini grant proposal and award the grant. All voted in favor. Emily will contact the organizer.

Miscellaneous:

Olivia Ballinger read a proposal for a vision for a Creative Arts Center in Enfield. Olivia introduced herself as a member of her children's PTO, a PLA Graduate, an artist and an author of 2 self-published books. Olivia would like to see the creation of a Creative Arts Center which would feature a gallery, art shop and art classes; a place where all artists are equals. The second part of her vision focuses on creative self-exploration, self-care and wellness. An Enfield Community Arts and Wellness Center that would feature a coffee shop, food, murals, seating areas, an indoor space for children, conference rooms, a space for yoga, dance, meditation, creative expression. It would feature a community garden, Zen, statues and a fountain. The Center could host vendor fairs and live music. The classes would be free and affordable. Olivia would be looking for non-profits, grants, and funding and is looking for support to create vision.

A question was asked, if she could choose 1 point as a starting point what would she choose. Her answer was an Art Gallery to display art as well as to use the space for painting and art classes. She has not begun looking for a location but mentioned the Hazardville Institute as a potential. Mary Keller shared with the contact information for the Enfield Senior Center and the Library.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary