

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
November 14, 2023 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

Roll Call

Jason Neely, Emily Clifford, Donna Hamre, Joyce Bolanos, Debbie Kruzel, Russ Salk, Dan Keating, Jonathan O'Brien, Nzima Hutchings (on phone)

Acceptance of Minutes

Dan made a motion to accept minutes, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor.

Special Guests

Jonathan O'Brien from Enfield Community Chorus to share information about the upcoming Christmas Concerts on Sat 12/9 at 6pm and Sun 12/10 at 3pm at the Enfield Annex. They are looking for sponsorship support for their concerts. The event information was shared via paper flyer and will be shared as an event on Facebook.

Russ Salk joined us to continue our conversation about recognizing students in the High School Arts programs. Due to budget constraints, ECAC can't commit to promotional items. Russ suggested printed certificates that can be framed or banners with students' photos displayed along a main street.

Donna shared that she had presented the idea to Mr. Rappucci, the music chairperson for Enfield Public Schools and he highlighted the band wing hallway that would be a good location for trophy cases.

Russ talked about a website created to share student and alumni testimonials, promoting it in the Enfield Patch or local newspaper.

Russ also talked about a partnership with East Windsor Arts Council and a project of make and paint birdhouses to be hung in local parks around town. East Windsor is turning it into a competition. Debbie will find out if the High School still has a carpentry program. She suggested having the kids cut and having the birdhouses ready to assemble to sell through elementary schools and JFK.

Chairperson's Remarks

included in new and old business.

Treasurer's Report

The current account balance is \$11936.89. The \$1500 check for the Chris Tetreault Butterfly wings will be available this Thursday for pick up and distribution.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

The new Town Manager is Chris Bromson. The Summer Concert Series could be impacting ECAC differently this year. Last year the Town Manager handled a lot of the scheduling and production of the concert series. It is unknown if ECAC is handling the booking or if another department will be involved.

Torchlight parade, December 3rd at the Town Green Gazebo: Nzima will be doing a poetry reading as the town's Poet Laureate, Emily and Donna will also be in attendance.

Festival of Trees at the Enfield Public Library will be held on December 14th. The Commission can submit a tree, ECAC helps to support the opening reception with refreshments.

Jason had a phone call with Carol Laliberte from Asnuntuck regarding a Drum Circle. Asnuntuck will also be offering guitar lessons and spoke about a partnership with the Enfield Public Library's Musical Instrument Lending Library for an extended rental of the guitars for the program.

TC Liaison's Remarks

None present.

Debbie will reach out to Ken Nelson to inquire who the TC Liaison's will be following the appointment of new Town Council members.

BOE Liaison's Remarks

none present, liaison not appointed yet due to the election of new board members.

Old Business

Arts and Culture around town updates:

Fahrenheit 451 reading, UCC presented a public reading of the book by community members. Emily participated as well as our BOE Liaison Joshua Hamre in the reading.

Valley Repertory Theater presented "Saving Fairview" at Asnuntuck Community College featuring Glenn Reese, an Enfield Native as the Playwright and director.

A Community Paint Day was held for the Mural at Enfield Produce and Deli. The Mural has been completed.

Open Mic attendance has been growing and we have had a consistent variety of performers. We will continue to have the Open Mic through December and will revisit to continue into the new year.

Opera House Players are offering their performance of Jesus Christ Superstar at the Enfield Annex through November, shows are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Advance tickets are available online and general admission tickets are available at the door.

Joyce shared that there is a large mural on the wall at the Enfield Post Office and is looking into the history of the mural.

We have not heard back from the Beautification committee regarding the public art in the parks to feature the Butterfly wings. We will inquire with Ken who is the Town Liaison for that commission.

Oly B will be postponing her drum circle until 2024.

The Friends of the Library are hosting a reception at the Pearl Street Branch for artist, Kim Caruso on 11/16 from 5-7pm

Joyce and Emily toured the Hazardville Institute location. There are grants pending to complete the renovations including the addition of an elevator and the completion of the parking lot. The North Central Chamber of Commerce will be occupying the first floor. The second floor will be open space to be used for community events. That could be a good starting point for ECAC to use as gallery space or for fundraisers.

Ronny Salas purchased the Polish Deli building and will have the upstairs space available for community events.

The Arts Policy will have to be approved through the Town Council. ECAC will review our mission statement and review other town art's policies and prioritize our events to create the budget. Joyce can bring a draft on an Arts policy for the commission to review prior to moving forward.

Our December meeting will be a budget workshop.

Debbie is willing to work with the Town Manager's office on the concert series. She would like to advocate for diversifying the bands. Some returning bands, Johnny Six Guns, Country, Classic Rock, Jazz/Classical music. Sunday Jazz in the Park was suggested.

We should start in the Spring to search Food Trucks. Promote the scheduled food truck on social media. Commission members should collect Food Truck options through the winter and share with Debbie. There are often food trucks at Powder Hollow Brewery and the Artisan's Market at Nathan Hale School.

Debbie spoke with John Santanella regarding having a brewery or winery sold at the Town Green for the bandshell concerts. We need to find out if an alcohol permit or licensing is needed. Debbie will follow up.

With the election we will need to find out who our new BOE Liaison will be. Debbie will reach out next Wednesday. Debbie will reach out to Chris, the New Town Manager, regarding the concert series. Emily will join the conversation.

A motion was made to purchase a 36x24 poster for the A-Frame at the library to promote Open Mic nights for \$200. Dan made the motion, Joyce 2nd. All voted in favor.

New Business

Debbie would like to see a focus in the schools on cultural arts to expose students to a capella performances, Opera, Ballets, Symphony to expose students to the arts through field trips. ECAC can fill in that gap with the concert series and bandshell performances.

ECAC received a letter from Sue Angers in support of the Jewish culture to celebrate the Jewish population in town. Nzima and Joyce suggested focusing on World Peace. Nzima spoke about an event held by Asnuntuck which featured a candlelight vigil and poetry reading in the evening. Using art as a form of peace to create a healing community event. The board decided to table the event until our support is asked for to support a specific event.

ECAC does share and celebrates a wide variety of holidays on our social media page.

Alex Ranniello would like to be a special guest in January to talk about murals. The Fairfield Inn is also looking for cross-promotional support to advertise their concert series.

A motion was made to sponsor Enfield Community Chorus Christmas Concerts. Joyce made a motion for \$500. Debbie 2nd the motion and all voted in favor of Enfield Community Chorus.

Mark Warnock from Enfield Public Access and Safe Harbor contacted us regarding a plan for a Spring fundraiser to raise funds for various town organizations. He is planning a Spring Day of Music, a music festival featuring bands playing throughout the day. He will be invited to our January meeting to speak more about the event.

Miscellaneous

ECAC will begin working on a PowerPoint presentation of ECAC events for the new Town Council featuring visuals and videos of our mission, vision, and past events over the past year to introduce our commission to the new Town Council members. Emily will create a Google doc to begin to collect ideas to include in the presentation.

The \$500 for the Poet Laureate is still available for Nzima to access as needed.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm