

December 13, 2016

Voting Members, Present: Becki Christopherson, Nori Grudin, Jennifer Bangser, Chris Bradley, Susan Wallerstein, Janet Evelyn, Lynn Massey

Voting Members, Absent: Sophia Gevas, Shruti Chalamari, Jeff Price, Helen Roman

Friends, Present: Melissa Slattery; Judith Bacal, Diane Jellerette, Kathy Hebert, Dorothy Mobilia

Guests: Jean Hard, Marketing Director of RAC; Stella Franco

Meeting called to order 8:36am.

Introductions

Report: Laurel Peterson, Poet Laureate by email presented by Susan Wallerstein

Great Poets in Conversation, welcoming two more for the last event on January 5; Raining Poetry is starting with the arts students at NCC; Thanks to Sherelle Harris she met with NPS and is bringing poetry into the classroom. Jean - she did a wonderful program at RAC. Her book of poetry will be published and the library will do an event around that. People are starting to think of poetry as a component of public events.

Report: Judith Bacal, Consultant, Mobile App

She has been working with the Seaport Association to develop a higher presence for their tour. She will be doing more editing and working on monetizing after the holidays. Susan met with the Maritime and they are interested in doing something within the aquarium, and there are businesses ready to invest.

Report: Melissa Slattery, Consultant, Mayor's Gallery

The next show should be up by the end of the mail which is the mobile app. The title of the show is Destination Norwalk: See, Hear, Explore. The next Mayor's Gallery will be city employees who worked on renovating Fodor Farm. Melissa & Susan met with the Ralph Sloane Gallery director to discuss the student art show. Susan provided background on Melissa's role in the Mayor's Gallery. Melissa is working on developing a student art opportunity to help handle the cycle of the art show.

Report: Susan Wallerstein

Susan had lunch with Norwalk Learning Center and their director went to Westport Arts Center. The center is still committed to their projects with the arts commission. Judith - the bike tour has been really complicated and the other tours have been edited. CT Open House day in June and Slow Art Day will be opportunities to roll out new tours.

Report: Nori Gudín, Member, Social Media

Nori provided a guide for posting to social media with the correct hashtags and other information. General discussion of social media posting. Jean asked if artwork was vulnerable and it was agreed that it is. Susan suggested that would be a good topic for the Alliance to cover.

Report: Melissa Slattery/Susan Wallerstein, Public Art Tours

We developed docents and Melissa is the lead on scheduling tours. The Historical Society is the phone number, or the Mayor's Office for NPS. The system is working. thanks to Diane, Melissa and Sally.

Report: Diane Jellerette, Historical Society

Spring will be busy. In late spring, they are doing a WPA mural exhibit, including the Steamboat mural. They will be creating an exhibit around it to talk about the era and put it in context. They have hired a curator who will be attending our meeting in January. Susan made a note to fix the location of the January meeting to be at the Historical Society. Janet will be chairing this meeting as well as the one in February. Susan reported that the curator is a wonderful person who asked a lot of questions to explore the context and community.

They will also have a presented on creating tintypes in January.

Report: Kathy Hebert, Maritime Gallery

The next exhibit is March 7, called Chromatic to connect the visual and musical arts. Jim Clark is connecting with them.

At the Yankee Garage, the Paring Authority approved the current design and it will go up in late spring/early summer. Susan - the Arts Commission was part of their process in developing this public art project. The process is working nicely. The garage is a significant piece of real estate in the Wall Street area and this will be a big improvement. Lynn - will there be bike parking? Kathy - this can be discussed offline but we are discussing the art project.

Report: Susan Wallerstein, Chair

Ordinance Committee - The ordinance is in the meeting packet and is going to the Common Council tonight. It passed the ordinance committee with some compromise. The chair of the committee is Eloisa Melendez, and they are trying to put it on the consent agenda so there won't be discussion. However, the Republican Caucus took it off of consent and the Democrat Caucus kept it on. Susan will attend.

Labels - we have been working on labeling the artwork in room 101 and elsewhere. There is now one for Margaret McKinnickinnick in room 101 and on the WPA murals. Melissa did them. If you see public art around town that needs a label let us know. They are \$120 each, but if you get 30 then it's around \$1000 for all. We have made them ADA compliant for font size, background and floating according to the Smithsonian guidelines. The next one is Anchor Rubbings by David Cole at the Center for Global Studies. There are others at NCC, the library, and elsewhere. They are very installation specific.

Charles O. Perry, originally from Montana, is an internationally renowned sculptor who passed away a few years ago and had a studio in Norwalk on Raymond Street and a home in East Norwalk. He left his studio intact and the widow has now passed away. The children initiated a conversation with the Redevelopment Agency about maintaining the studio, displaying sculpture, etc. There is one in Stamford that they are considering relocating to Norwalk. They are working on creating a presence and identity for him in Norwalk. Susan still needs to connect with Redevelopment, who has engaged Tod Bryant to do a photo documentary of the studio as it is currently. It could be featured in one of our tours.

Shruti went to Ballet Etudes at Westport Country Playhouse and the performance was sponsored by FactSet, there was diversity of dancers as well as professionals from NYC ballet. She also went to MTC's It's a Wonderful Life.

Susan met with David Westmoreland and the Maritime because the WPA mural may need to be relocated.

Slow Art Day (2nd Saturday in April) - go to one place and look at a few things. We need to finalize it by March. Nori suggested Fodor Farm and have a gallery or local artists bring in some art. The Perry studio is also a possibility. Jean said that RAC would be interested in partnering at this event. Kathy would open the Maritime Gallery for this event as well.

Susan - there are 200-300 people involved in our activities through Eventbrite. We need to program Slow Art Day and CT Open House in the January/February meetings.

New Business

September, October, November minutes - Jennifer motioned, Nori seconded, passed unanimously

At 10:00am, we are presenting our budget request for 2017-2018 for \$40,000 that includes money for a consultant and the Poet Laureate. We've been consistently getting \$10,000-\$15,000. We probably won't get that much but we need to create a job description. It also includes the online version of our public art inventory to help cost-share with the Historical Society. We are still carrying money for a van which could be used for Slow Art Day, CT Open House or something else.

Traffic Graphic - a motion to authorize an expenditure of up to \$1000 for the Norwalk Housing Authority's 20 West students to work with a professional artist to do another box. The NHA has requested that we work with younger (4th/5th grade) students this year. David Shokley cleans up graffiti and he wants to identify the boxes that are frequently tagged because the painted boxes are damaged less frequently. Becki made the motion. Discussion - background on 20 West Ave and our relationship. There are two boxes that get graffiti'd a lot so we would be looking for a second group to partner with. The price tag for a box is \$1000, which pays for the teaching artist/curator as well as supplies. Other organizations can sponsor them. DPW has to approve any design, so any organization would start there or with the Arts Commission.

We will distribute the inventory list so everyone knows which ones are city and state owned.

One of our curators, Liz, did one in Amsterdam because of her work here.

We need to make sure that the curators are diverse and that children are included.

Janet seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

We have to specifically request that 1% of the Walk Bridge budget to be allocated for public art. Janet made the motion and Nori seconded, passed unanimously.

Adjourned, 9:53AM

Calendar

January 5, 7-8:30pm Poets in Conversation, Norwalk Public Library

July 8, all day - NICE Festival

August 5/6 - SoNo ArtsFest

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10 at 8:30am at the Norwalk Historical Society. The primary focus will be the WPA display at the society as well as programming for Slow Art Day.