

March 21, 2017

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

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

Friends, Present: Diane Jellerette, Laurel Peterson, Melissa Slattery, Kathryn Hebert

Guests: David Gomez, Sharon Baananate, Jackie Lightfield, Jeanne Hard, Maribeth Becker, Julio Pardo

Meeting called to order 8:40am.

Introductions

Report: David Gomez, Youth Chorus

He wants to form a multi-level training division and tiered performing ensembles open to singers of ages 5 to 18. Susan reported that they have been in touch by email, and she recommended that he meet with Mike Mocciaie about partnering with Parks & Rec. Becki confirmed that Mike would let David run the entire program and collect the money but put Parks & Rec support behind it. Janet affirmed that she started the NICE festival in a similar manner through Parks & Rec. Jennifer suggested that he be in touch with Kevin Connors at MTC, and Becki suggested that he have a courtesy coffee with Cheryl Kemeny.

Report: Laurel Peterson, Poet Laureate

Update on LitCrawl (April 5) and Jim's album release (April 2). Susan suggested that in the future there could be easels for visual artists to paint while they listen.

April - Bus poetry project, new selections

Community Day @ Maritime Aquarium (Rebecca & Darlene) - it was well attended and they made a poetree. The tree is in the children's room at the library.

Earth Day at NCC on April 13 with another poetree.

Writer's Resist Event on April 27, 4-7pm; David Levinson, Harry Rilling and the Poet Laureate of CT are coming.

May 3, 6:30 - writing about art at the Rowayton Arts Center.

NCC Raining Poetry installation will go in in April/May, and a traffic graphic project is being formed for a box outside the Norwalk Public Library.

Laureates of CT - a poetry anthology of CT poets

Nori - are artists being included in the Earth Day?

Report: Maribeth Becker & Jackie Lightfield, #iconicnorwalk

Take pictures/videos, use the hashtag, upload to instagram, and win prizes. It's an effort to highlight Norwalk. This runs from now until May 31, 2017. There are different categories and different prizes. There will be a reception at Art Works, the gallery at St. Paul's, and other venues in Norwalk. Artists do not have to be residents of Norwalk. They want to put art in public places so it engages the community and creates conversation.

Report: Melissa Slattery, Mayor's Gallery

There is a show that is devised to bring more awareness to the Ottocast (the mobile app). We are working on forming a panel of jurors for the school art show. We are engaging a high school student as a helper to deal with the project. The next show is Creativity & City Employees, highlighting those who worked on Fodor Farm.

Report: Sharon Baanante, Love All

This is a response to the racist flyers that went out in Norwalk and surrounding towns. She wants to bring the community together, collaborate, and take the opportunity to celebrate diversity on a daily basis. There are 4 initiatives - marketing (car magnets), immersive community programming (smaller scale), collaborative public art installation, and building a community model that creates a framework for other communities. Goals for the public art project are to unite the community, show Norwalk's commitment and support for diversity, document this historical time frame, be visible, be cost effective, and something that draws visitors to Norwalk. A sound installation - story telling - would be great.

Kathy - space - could be permanent or temporary - Kathy will follow up with her about spaces in the city.

Nori - Bob Duff put out that there are two buildings that keep getting tagged with graffiti. St. Mathews always has an interfaith dinner around Thanksgiving.

Diane - This is a wonderful idea. St. Paul's on the Green does a lot of social justice. She will think about how to connect.

Jennifer - synergy with NICE

Laurel - a permanent documentation, have people respond to the issues through writing of any kind and print it, put in the library. Sharon - storytelling is really important - she has a photographer who will help. Diane - it could also go to the Historical Society as a reminder of this time. Laurel - this can be a teaching tool in the schools.

Julio - love is wonderful but hate is more galvanizing. "When the grass is cut, the snakes will show." There may be a need to bring the hate to light.

Jeanne - HamletHub, the Patch, focus on media. Sharon - she has a Fox executive is going to help her with the project.

Melissa - would like to support however she can. We do a table at the Norwalk Arts Festival, maybe this could be part of that. When people sit together and create, it pulls people together. Bring opposites together and create.

Janet - NICE ;it was relevant and resonated with people at the time. It is apolitical - it's just a party.

David - This seems bigger than Norwalk; Sharon emphasized that this is also to create a model for other communities too.

Becki - Rebecca Prosper at the Norwalk Police Dept and the SoNo ArtsFest are possible resources and opportunities.

Judith - MOTH radio for storytelling;

Susan - we have always talked about installing storycorp capability at traffic graphics.

Report - Julio Pardo, Traffic Graphic at 20 West

They have been workshopping, talking about what they like and what inspires them. They have landed on Love Norwalk (interview friends and classmates, why/what do you love about Norwalk) - they are creating Love Lists. They are finalizing designs.

Made in Norwalk - Norwalk has an amazing history of things that have been created here and people who are from here.

The boxes in front of O'Neils are very high profile and they are excited about having their work being so visible. They hope to paint during April spring break.

Susan - the students are also learning the business of art; the process of approaching projects. Julio - his main objective is to get them to conceptualize first.

Report - Janet Evelyn, NICE, June 15

Plans for the festival are underway; the music headliners- Americana roots music like Bluegrass, and New Orleans Funk; they are repeating the children's program with Chinese Dancing and poetry readings. Susan suggested a few contacts in NSP that would be interested. Lynn suggested the soccer program. "Destination India" - create the concept of attending an Indian wedding. They will do an Indian cooking demonstration at Fodor Farm. The Patel Bros. are a

supporter of the festival. The Fodor Farm event is a ticketed event that is a fundraiser for the festival.

New Business

Judith - NextDoor Neighbor - New England Music Festival coming March 16/17, need housing for these students. Becki will send the invitation to host to the arts commission.

Sophia - benefit concert for Benefit Partners (benefits students in Norwalk/Stamford who are not native speakers), March 10 at Silvermine, \$50, 100% to the charity.

Report - Judith, Nori, Diane, Lynn - SLOW ART Day

We decided to do Fodor Farm, and after reading the concept of SLOW ART, they changed it to Rowayton Arts Center. Riad Miah is the consultant; he is the judge for the Abstract Art Members Exhibition and he will host SLOW ART Day. The show opens April 2, and SLOW ART is on April 8. He will pick 3-5 pieces and discuss abstract art and why he selected the ones he did. Judith - this is an international event. The press release will go out on Thursday, and the eventbrite has been built. We are charging \$5 to discourage no-shows. Social media will go up this week. Judith - we are hoping that other galleries and groups will also host SLOW ART day events.

Chairman's Report & New Business

- * The ordinance is approved and there is some housekeeping to do. She will send out a survey monkey to gather feedback.
- * Susan is presenting to the New England Foundation for the Arts regarding the WPA murals (things that have been sitting on the shelf as a snapshot of time re-engaged in current the current time).
- * Judith - RAC is on the app; we can move them up the list. There are adjustments that can be made to the way things are presented on the app.
- * Sculpture Park - Susan is looking for a small committee; there is a pocket park at the intersection of 95, West Ave and the rt. 7 connector. Carol Eisner has a sculpture there. We need to issue a request to the sculptors in Norwalk to repopulate the sculpture park.
- * CT Open House Day, June 10 - this year we have two tours (WPA docents looking at oyster-ing murals and then taking an oyster boat tour) and a bicycle (Artswheelers) led tour of the public art installations.

April meeting will be at the transit district, and hopefully May will be at the Wall Street Theatre.

Adjourned 10:03am