

July 11, 2017

Members, Present: Susan Wallerstein, Becki Christopherson, Nori Grudin, Jennifer Bangser, Helen Roman, Janet Evelyn

Absent: Lynn Massey

Friends Present: Laurel Peterson, Melissa Slattery, Karen Spencer, Dorothy Mobilia, Judith Bacal

Guests: None

Meeting called to order 8:31am.

Introductions

Report: Laura Einstein, Center for Contemporary Printmaking

It is a printmaking company and enjoy collaboration. It is 22 years old, and it was founded by Grace Shandley. There are 11 presses, 6 exhibitions a year. The mini-print attracts entrants from around the world. There is an artist-in-residence cottage, launched in 2003. They just received a NEA grant for artists to be invited to come work on projects. They just hosted a Cuban photographer who wanted to translate her works into printmaking. The building is an 1870's carriage house for the Lockwood Mathews Mansion. The property is owned by the City of Norwalk, and the Historical Commission is the landlord.

Members have 24 hour access to work, and there are many workshops for artists. There are education programs where kids from area schools can come and create here. NCCF gave a grant for college age student scholarships to come and work here.

Susan Wallerstein, Old Business

Walkbridge Design Update - Working on getting a more aesthetically pleasing bridge that is iconic, and one get a placeholder figure to commission a sculpture out of the pieces of the dismantled bridge.

Maritime Curator - The new curator is Nadia Martinez from Stamford. She teaches in NYC, is a sculptor and likes working with nontraditional materials. She is an artist, a teacher, and as a curator she has the opportunity to inform her own artwork.

Report: Laurel Peterson, Poet Laureate

Doing a project with Lynn on a show at the Rowayton Arts Center. Beginning to plan poets in conversation.

Report: Melissa Slattery, Mayor's Gallery

The new show, Norwalk Oystering: Then and Now, is almost up. There is an online archive of Alexander Rummeler's preparatory photos for the WPA murals. This will be linked with Harbor Watch's role in the harvesting of oysters as well as Copps Island. Laurel could do a pop-up poetry activity in this show. The Fodor Farm was too hard during the staff transition.

Report: Becki Christopherson, Norwalk Arts Festival

Becki suggested it should be an agenda item year round to make sure that it is well designed, well supported through volunteer hours at the event, and relevant to our mission and activities.

Report: Becki Christopherson, SoNo Arts Festival

There are over 100 artists, and the festival will be all of Washington Street, North and South Main streets for one-two blocks. Becki needs volunteer help at the playground that weekend.

Report - Dorothy Mobilia, Traffic Graphic at SPAG

There are 5 artists, and they will start soon. David Shockley is paying for it through the anti-graffiti task force.

New Business

Report - Judith Bacal, Storytelling

Their first event is Maiden Voyage, at Harbor Harvest, It's based on the Moth storytelling model, and the goal is to build community through storytelling. They will have many events around the entire city. 3 Birds Productions is the sponsoring company.

2017-2018 Planning

Refer to the 2 page reflection on what we did in 2016-2017. What are our anchor activities?

Poet Laureate, Anchor Should Rain Poetry continue? Lauren thinks that the new Laureate should bring their own energy and projects. Should the position continue to be 1 year with a 1 year extension? We will take the current job description and ask Lauren and Chris to review it. There is a \$1500 budget for it, and Laurel also received support from NCC.

Mayor's Gallery, Anchor There is a \$1500 budget for 3 shows + expenses. We should have a partnering art form besides visual arts for 2 out of 3 shows (such as the performing arts or poetry); this will bring in more people and expand the concept.

Policy, Anchor Deaccession of Art is the business of being the arts commission. We need to continue to have a commitment to Policy, which includes acquisition, inventory, and maintenance of public art. The City of Norwalk is revamping Conservation and Development plans, and also trying to create an Arts & Culture plan through Redevelopment. If this happens, we want the people in Planning and Zoning and Redevelopment to have an art layer to their work.

Public Art Tours, Anchor - the presence of these tours legitimizes and adds value to the art. The docents have a game plan for next year.

Mobile App, Anchor- Having a a digital tour in addition to the walking tours is important. We need to discuss this in more detail, but it needs to be continued.

City Hall real estate - it needs to be reflective of the values of the community. The WPA model is a moment in time that doesn't change, so how do we make it a dynamic presentation? There will be a subcommittee and a deadline, and then we will find resources. Iconic Norwalk by 2.0, the Historical Society and the Portrait of Diversity could be potential sources of material. Jen-

nifer, Becki, Judith, Helen, Diane, and Melissa are on the **Norwalk Now** committee. Susan will draft a one page charge to the committee. The committee should come back in September with a work plan.

Traffic Graphic: We budget \$1000 to help with this. Do we still want to have \$ for this, or just promote other organizations doing this? Consensus: This money should be reallocated for other professionals to come in for partnering events.

Slow Art Day, Anchor - This will be continued with a \$500 budget for food and the curator.

Meetings off-site - four out of ten meetings to be offsite, Silvermine, MTC, dance studios and others.

Public School Art Show Judging, Anchor - ongoing; soft cost because it's part of the Mayor's Gallery Budget.

Norwalk Arts Festival - open for discussion at \$350 for the booth and \$250 for a consultant.

CT Open House Day, Anchor - It has a budget of \$800 for the van.

Oystering Then & Now, Anchor We can have a child-friendly one and an adult one.

New:

Carol Frank wants to launch a project engaging seniors and art.

Wendy Bodden lives in Ledgebrook, and there are a lot of people who are interested in the arts but aren't involved in the community. Could a van tour begin and end at one of the condos, and the condo association would promote it? It wouldn't be exclusive to the condo. Helen suggested Cranbury Park as another starting point. This would be particularly relevant for a performance art tour on CT Open House Day.

Annual Plan Draft from WPA docents

We need to combine their ideas with the discussion about our priorities. Sip & Strolls and Art Wheelers are models to be continued through the year. Sip & Stroll grew out of a Norwalk 2.0 event near city hall. They connected with the restaurants near the event, which was three weeks long. Each stroll was up to city hall and back to the restaurant, where they had a drink themed to the mural. There can be a charge that will go to the consultant instead of the general fund.

Add Poetry to April because it's Poetry Month.

Sept. 16 at the library, 3-5:30pm, Karen Spencer's show

Adjourned 10:09am