

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
June 4th, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Melissa Matuska, Co-Chair, Marc Allen, Co-Chair, Sharon Baanante, Chris Yerinides, Helen Roman, Nori Grudin

ABSENT: Jennifer Bansger, Emerson Straniti, Danielle Vinci, Janet Evelyn, Melissa Slattery, Susan Wallerstein

OTHERS: Chris Bradley, Norwalk Public Library, Jim Clark, Public

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME.

Ms. Matuska called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS & PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Matsuka introduced the members of the commission. There were no public comments.

I. OFFICER'S REPORTS.

A. Co-Chair (Melissa Matsuka)

Ms. Matsuka gave her report to the commission.

B. Treasurer Report (Emerson Straniti)

This member was not present so there was no treasurer report for this meeting.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS & PROJECT UPDATES.

A. Poet Laureate

Mr. Yerinides gave the commission an update regarding the poet laureate.

B. Communication Committee- Sharon Baanante

i. Position update

Ms. Baanante informed the commission that they were still looking for someone to assist with social media posts and engagement for the commission.

ii. Social media update on who we promote

Ms. Baanante asked the commission if it was appropriate for them to promote fundraisers online and on social media networks. She also advised to add this topic to the next meeting's agenda. Mr. Allen said that it might be appropriate for certain events but that the commission should not endorse individual fundraisers. Ms. Grudin disagreed with Mr. Allen and said in some cases it may be appropriate to endorse individual fundraisers. Mr. Yerinides said he wanted a clearer definition of a fundraiser in order to help clarify what would be ok for the commission to endorse. Ms. Baanante said she would work on providing a more specific definition. Both she and Mr. Allen suggest adding social media outreach to the commission's mission and guidelines. Mr. Yernides stated that all events or individuals asking for the support of the arts commission would need to be reviewed on a case by case basis and all agreed.

C. Collaboration Committee

No action was taken on this item.

D. Infrastructure Committee- Marc Allen

i. Gallery update

Mr. Allen informed the commission that Infrastructure Committee, which he is a member of, plans to restorate the paintings and mural in the city hall next month.

ii. Mural update

Mr. Allen informed the commission that he wishes to have the city paintings and murals under the jurisdiction of the arts commission. He also advised consulting artists regarding the various proper techniques and practices for the preservation of various art pieces.

III. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Identify prospective new members

Ms. Matsuka informed the commission and the public present that the Arts Commission needed voting members. She continued that the members would need to have an even Democratic, Republican and Independent ratio.

B. Jim Clark would like the commission to support "That Ying Yang Thang" on June 28th

Mr. Clark and the arts group Mad Creatives, representing the Mad Lab, informed the commission of their event "That Ying Yang Thang" on Friday June 28th. He continued that the event would be spontaneous music and arts event. Mr. Clark said he already met with the Mayer earlier that day and asked the commission for their support for the event, and clarified that it was not a monetary ask but rather a public and social endorsement of the event.

Mr. Clark continued that he wished the arts commission to include a wider spectrum of the arts, including music and performing arts as well. He also said he wished for more local and government encouragement and support for the arts in Norwalk, and eventually grants for artists that contributed to the culture of the city. Mr. Allen asked Mr. Clark to clarify what he meant by more encouragement. Mr. Clark said it was his intention to leave that statement open to interpretation based on the needs and abilities of the commission. Mr. Yerinides stated that he and the commission would be happy to support the event and that events asking for support of the commission would have to be reviewed on a case by case basis.

***MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

***MR. ALLEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Norwalk Film Festival on July 6th and 7th would like the commission's support

The discussion of the Norwalk Film Festival was added to the agenda but there was no vote to add this to the agenda by the commission. Representatives from the Norwalk Film Festival informed that committee that the theme of the festival was unity through diversity through film. They asked the local community to provide suggestions and are still finalizing venues for the two-night event. They informed the committee that they were in the process currently of setting themselves up as a non-profit organization and that they had the Norwalk Arts Society as a fiscal agent.

***MS. BAANANTE MOVED TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

***MR. YERINIDES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. July meeting date and agenda

Ms. Matsuka told the committee that she wanted to forgo a July meeting for the commission and resume in August. Ms. Roman also said she would not be available for the July 2nd date, as did Ms. Baanante.

***MS. GRUDIN MOVED TO HAVE A SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN JULY IN LIEU OF A FULL COMMISSION MEETING.**

***MS. BAANANTE SECONDED THE VOTE.**

****MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Allen asked for a revote on the basis that a July meeting would need to take place because the Infrastructure committee needed a decision from the arts commission regarding the city hall gallery and murals before they made any further decisions on that matter.

***MR. ALLEN MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM.**

***MS. MATSUKA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MAY 7TH, 2019.

***MS. BAANANTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES BUT THEN REDACTED HER VOTE.**

***MS. GRUDIN SECONDED THE VOTE.**

Ms. Baanante changed her mind after the vote and decided to redact the first two pages of the meeting.

***MS. BAANANTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

***MS. GRUDIN SECONDED THE VOTE.**

****MOTION APPROVED WITH ONE ABSTENSION (MR. YERINIDES)**

ADJOURNMENT.

*** MS. MATSUKA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Kral
Telesco Secretarial Services