

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Marc Alan, Co-Chair; Jennifer Bangser, Nori Grudin, Helen Roman, Peter Smyth, Emerson Straniti

OTHERS: Tony Mobilia, St. Philip's Art Guild (SPAG); Judith Bacal, Jim Clark

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mr. Alan called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Alan said that Ms. Matuska had originally been elected as a co-chair with him following the transition after Ms. Wallerstein's departure. However, Ms. Matuska was currently not available due to pregnancy.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

• Chair -- Marc Alan

There are three open positions. In past there were people who became involved with their work and this has resulted in the open positions. There is an nominating committee and a number of people have expressed in being a voting member.

• Introducing new voting member, Peter Smyth

Mr. Alan introduced Mr. Peter Smyth whose wife, Barbara Smyth, is on the Common Council. Mr. Smyth's son was an intern for Mr. Alan. Mr. Smyth said that his mother was Ms. Wilcox who lived in Village Creek and added that he had a finance background.

Mr. Alan said that it would be important to create more awareness of the Arts Commission.

• Old Budget carry over from 208/20119 to 2019/2020

Mr. Straniti is stepping down because of new work obligations. Mr. Alan suggested that Ms. Grudin fill the role of treasurer. Mr. Alan said that he had been filling in as treasurer. He explained that there was some funding in the budget from the last year. The City was looking to apply the funding to various projects. He said that one project Ms. Bacal had

worked on was included. Several of the members suggested projects such as the Mayor's Gallery, the Poet Laureate, Autocast, social media and the website. Discussion followed.

**** MR. ALAN MOVED TO NOMINATE MS. GRUDIN AS TREASURER.**

**** MR. SMYTH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Alan said that in the past Ms. Vinci had been their Recording Secretary. Ms. Bangser offered to take up the role of secretary. Discussion followed about using Telesco Secretarial Services to produce the meeting minutes.

**** MR. ALAN MOVED TO NOMINATE MS. BANGSER AS THE COMMISSION'S RECORDING SECRETARY.**

**** MS. GRUDIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Alan then spoke about the Mural Policy, which was handled by Planning and Zoning. Zoning has not given up full control of the murals. Any curator would have to go to the Zoning Department for a permit. Zoning has stated that any issues with the murals would have to be approved by the Arts Commission. Mr. Alan said that he had sponsored a special event which required him to get sign offs from nine different agencies. Ms. Wallerstein had suggested an ad hoc commission with various departments to review projects involving the murals. Mr. Alan said that the Commission had to decide the process for permitting murals. Discussion followed.

Ms. Bangser suggested that Mr. Alan contact the individual who currently is directing the Stamford DSS because he has experience with both Bridgeport and now Stamford.

Ms. Bangser asked if the City had produced a list of buildings that the artists could paint. Discussion followed.

Mr. Alan said that the SoNo Collection had originally offered to sponsor a number of murals, however, due to a number of issues, the mall owners have decided to install the murals inside the mall.

• Treasurer

The City will be hiring someone as staff to assist the Arts Commission. Ms. Jessica Casey, the new head of the Economic Development Office, will be hiring that staff member. This is the person who would be processing the mural permits. It will be a Community Service position and also working with promoting tourism.

• Collaboration Committee

Ms. Bacal said that the mural exhibit was completed. There are four banners with timelines of the murals in Norwalk in the People's Gallery, which is moving to the Recreations and Parks Department. Ms. Grudin said that she had the impression that the Arts Commission was not going to curate the exhibits there but simply approve the exhibits. Ms. Bacal commented that Ms. Vinci had been researching a type of hanging system for the hallway.

Ms. Bacal gave an overview of the WPA murals and the showcase timeline of the murals. Mr. Alan said that there should be an official opening and reception in September.

Mr. Alan said that the next meeting will be on September 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Grudin said that Ms. Baanante had been updating the information on the City Websites. Michelle will be handling the social media. There is a page on Facebook and also an Instagram account.

Mr. Alan said that his neighborhood group is working to save the Garden Cinema from becoming a parking lot for a condo. He informed the Commission that they have been working to have the Cinema to have it become a non-profit and use the TriBeCa Arts model for it. If anyone is interested in supporting this project, he asked that they contact him.

Mr. Tony Mobilia came forward and welcomed everyone on behalf of St. Philip's Art Guild (SPAG). he said that there were a number of SPAG members present and that there were 13 studios upstairs.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. ALAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. GRUDIN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services