



**ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, May 4, 2021 – 6:00 - 7:00 PM
AGENDA**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone or Zoom. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Maritza Alvarado at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

IV. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 regular meeting

V. COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES

- a. Budget Committee Update
 - i. Finance update – Nori Grudin & Sabrina Church
 - 1. Current Budget
 - 2. FY22 Budget – Capital & Operating
- b. Communications Committee Update
 - i. Social Media update – Michelle Rakowsky & Marc Alan
 - ii. Event Discussions – Marc Alan, Janet Evelyn, MAD Lab

1. ART manifestation
 2. Make Music Day
 3. NICE Festival
- c. Infrastructure Committee Update
- i. MLK update – Janet Evelyn & Julio Pardo

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the Washington Street Barrier project expenditure with Artist Payments.
- b. Discussion on Sponsorship Funding by the Arts Commission for 2021-22 events.
- c. Approve the addition of 4 hours to Michelle Rakowsky's contract per month for the NAC Newsletter to begin July 1, 2021.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Marc Alan, Chairman; Brian Kaspr; Janet Evelyn; Melissa Matuska; Matthew O’Callaghan; Kadeem Roberts Common Council Member; Bob Abriola; Nori Grudin; Jolie Leung; Steven Rust

OTHER: Sabrina Church, Director of Business Development & Tourism; Julio Pardo; Weverson Ponte

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alan called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. There was a quorum present.

II. ROLL CALL

A roll call was given. It was noted that Emerson Straniti was unable to attend this meeting.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Evelyn asked about a mention of the printing of the artwork for the barriers on Washington Street. She wanted to confirm that the dollar amount there, \$20,000 for the printing, is correct.

Ms. Church confirmed that this was the number for when they are actually printed. However, this is reduced to \$6,000 when artists paint on them which is the amount spent the prior year. She offered money to help with the remainder but there would still be issues.

Commissioner Evelyn asked if they were going to print artwork as opposed to paint. Ms. Church confirmed that this was the case.

Commissioner Abriola agreed that it had cost only \$6,000 previously and wanted to know why the cost had gone up.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERTS MOTIONED TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2021 PENDING REVISION.**

**** COMMISSIONER EVELYN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Church found the invoice and confirmed that the project had cost only \$6,000 with the \$20,000 being for all the winter decorations. She said she would edit in the proper dollar amount into the minutes.

**** COMMISSIONER KASPER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** COMMISSIONER O'CALLAGHAN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERTS MOTIONED TO SUSPEND THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA.**

**** COMMISSIONER MATUSKA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE THE CONTENT AND QUALITY OF THE PURPLE HEART MONUMENT FOR REVIEW BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.

Jeff came forwards to discuss this item. He provided a picture of a mirrored monument, located in New York, that is similar to the monument in question. He then reviewed the details of the proposed monument for the Commission. He suggested that they change the language along the bottom to be the mottos of the six branches of service. He hopes to have the monument placed by August 7th of this year.

It was questioned if this item had come forwards for the Art Commission Endorsement. Ms. Church clarified that the Commission reviews content, color, and similar things.

The question of what the replaced text would look like was raised. Jeff provided a photo image containing the details and the logos of the six branches of the military on a different monument for the Commission.

Commissioner Abriola asked if some reference to Norwalk could be added on the monument. Adjustments were made to the proposed text with suggestions made by the Commission.

Commissioner Matuska asked if a list of Purple Heart Recipients could be procured beforehand and checked to ensure no one had been left off the list. It was pointed out that no names would be placed on the monument.

**** COMMISSIONER ABRIOLO MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MONUMENT.**

**** COMMISSIONER MATUSKA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ART MANIFESTATION -WEVERSON PONTE

Mr. Ponte came forwards to discuss this item. He is the founder of The Mad Lab which provides galleys and studios for artists. He said that the main mission of his organization is to turn Norwalk into an art capitol. He plans to host an art festival at the Isaac Square in Norwalk called The Art Manifestation. They

are currently scheduling the event for August 28th, but have noted that they had to change the date previously. It will last for one day. It will feature food trucks, art vendors, creative workshops, art installations, and a mural competition. Invites will be sent out to artists around Connecticut to participate. Four artists will compete to paint a mural at the art park. A cash prize will be given to the winner. He desires the endorsement of the Arts Commission to make this happen.

Chairman Alan said that he had a vision to bring something like this to life for the Wall Street area.

Commissioner Abriola asked if Mr. Ponte needed permission or approval or if he simply desired the endorsement.

Chairman Alan said he did not need approval for a permit and Mr. Ponte was not asking for money. However, he did desire the endorsement.

Mr. Ponte confirmed that he desired the endorsement and said he wanted to create an identity of fostering creativity as well as bring about some economy and energy to the area. He hopes this will become a yearly event.

Commissioner Arbola said he'd want to look at the festival first to see what was going on before he was willing to give it the branding. Chairman Alan said there was a precedent for the Commission to endorse events without being the ones presenting the event. Discussion followed on the details of the event. The event will be free to attend. They are looking for sponsors and Mr. Ponte said that his group would try to pay for the event.

The Commission members voiced their support. Commissioner Evelyn said that they should focus on what their mission was. They wished to see more information as well as review details first though.

**** COMMISSIONER ARBOLA MOTIONED TO TABLE UNTIL THE NEXT MONTH SO THEY COULD REVIEW THE INFORMATION PROVIDED.**

**** COMMISSIONER KASPR SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NICE FESTIVAL – JANET EVELYN

Commissioner Evelyn came forwards to present this item. She reported that the city had given the go-ahead to apply for the permit for the event. She noted that there were processes in place that still needed to be resolved citing the current COVID situation as one of them. The program still needs to be approved by the Parks & Rec Committee and the Common Council. She recounted how there were lamp post banners at the first festival and the Arts Commission had been involved by sponsoring the banners. She wished for the Arts Commission to have a presence at the festival especially if the turnout was high.

Chairman Alan informed the newer members of the Commission that, previously, they had had a booth where they would hand out printed materials such as stickers. He noted that they had voted to approve this item in the past but the money hadn't been spent and was rolled over. Each banner costs \$260 to produce.

Chairman Alan asked Ms. Church if they could review the budget for the 2020 version of the festival. Ms. Church said that they could but that she also had an advertising budget that could be spent to help out that she would get by July 1st. Commissioner Evelyn asked if they could get the funding right after the first. Discussion followed on the details.

MAKE MUSIC DAY -MARC ALAN

Chairman Alan came forwards to speak on this item. He confirmed that Make Music Day would be happening on June 21 at various locations throughout the city. However, he had no specific details at this moment. Discussion followed on the details of possible funding and banner creation.

OLD BUSINESS

ART SPEAKS- BOB ABRIOLA & MARC ALAN

Commissioner Abriola came forwards to speak on this item. The idea was to have a Norwalk Arts Commission sponsored event. The idea had been put on hold due to COVID but there were hopes for it being enacted this year. There would be a moderator and guests with expertise on various subjects.

Chairman Alan informed the new members that there were two subcommittees within the Arts Commission. One for communications and the other for infrastructure. Discussion followed on the feasibility of events before Summertime. Chairman Alan suggested that this item be developed at the sub-committee level. Commissioner Abriola offered to have the members of his sub commission help with the Art Speaks idea.

COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE – MICHELLE RAKOWSKY & MARC ALAN

Chairman Alan informed the Commission that they have performed some advertising within their Facebook world primarily for getting the call out to artists. The responses have been good. Engagement has gone up almost 1,000% since the start of the month from where it had been previously.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Abriola said he had nothing to report.

MLK UPDATE – JANET EVELYN & JULIO PARDO

Julio Pardo said that they were all set for the art clean up event on April 18th. He is hoping for a good turn-out at the event. They will discuss the project and look at locations.

BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Church said there was a little over \$10,000 in the budget of which \$6,000 was for the banners. She encouraged the budget committee to meet before the next meeting to strategize. She wants them to

get larger budgets in the future and desires for them to spend it down as a result. She reviewed the remaining expenses for the year for the Commission.

FINANCE UPDATE – NORI GRUDIN

Commissioner Grudin was unable to speak at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- ** COMMISSIONER KASPR MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COMMISSIONER ABRIOLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Norwalk Arts Commission

Budget Summary

Dept	Account	Summary	Original Balance	Expenses	Transfer In	Transfer Out	Balance
011450	5221	Printing & Duplicating	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800.00
	5225	Secretarial Services	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (1,090.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310.00
	5235	Membership & Dues	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
	5258	Other Professional Services	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,505.10)	\$ 3,160.00	\$ -	\$ 2,654.90
	5298	Other Contractual Services	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,426.00	\$ (3,000.00)	\$ 926.00
	5329	Other Operating Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (60.00)	\$ 4,680.00	\$ -	\$ 6,120.00

EXHIBIT A
2021-2022 CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

POLICE		
NEW	FIRINING RANGE	\$ 150,000
C0665	CARS AND VANS	\$ 549,852
	Police Subtotal	\$ 699,852
FIRE		
C0486	VEHICLES	\$ 70,450
NEW	AFFF FOAM	\$ 19,100
NEW	HIGH PRESSURE RESCUE BAGS	\$ 20,000
C0641	SECURITY CAMERAS & INTERCOM SYSTEM	\$ 20,000
NEW	STATION 5 MEADOW STREET NEW ROOF	\$ 100,000
	Fire Subtotal	\$ 229,550
OPERATIONS & PUBLIC WORKS		
C0315	BRIDGE REPAIRS	\$ 500,000
C0617	STRUCTURAL INSPECTIONS & REPAIR	\$ 35,000
C0642	WEST CEDAR BRIDGE	\$ 1,800,000
C0021	PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	\$ 5,000,000
C0318	SIDEWALKS & CURBS	\$ 2,000,000
C0503	FOOTPATH REPLACEMENT	\$ 100,000
C0302	GENERAL DRAINAGE	\$ 500,000
C0440	WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE	\$ 500,000
C0643	NORWALK RIVER FLOOD CONTROL	\$ 100,000
C0233	TREE PLANTING-DPW	\$ 65,000
C0471	EAST AVE RECONSTRUCTION	\$ 2,000,000
C0234	TEA21 LOCAL MATCH	\$ 1,991,800
NEW	STATE PROJECTS NON-PARTICIPATING CITY STANDARD AMENTITIES	\$ 200,000
NEW	TRUCK SCALE REPLACEMENT	\$ 250,000
C0313	FLEET REPLACEMENT	\$ 540,000
C0364	SCHOOL & PARK PLAYGROUNDS	\$ 120,000
C0365	CALF PASTURE BEACH	\$ 700,000
C0659	TURF SOFTBALL	\$ 620,000
C0366	CRANBURY PARK	\$ 225,000
C0321	BASKETBALL & TENNIS COURTS	\$ 300,000
C0367	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK	\$ 750,000
C0486	VEHICLES	\$ 90,000
NEW	BEN FRANKLIN GYMNASIUM	\$ 200,000
C0131	BACKSTOPS AND FENCING	\$ 25,000
C0588	PAVING SIDEWALK PROJECTS PARKS	\$ 50,000
C0370	TREE PLANTING	\$ 50,000
C0372	OPEN SPACE FUND	\$ 50,000
C0771	ATHLETIC FIELDS	\$ 50,000
C0439	CITY HALL REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 200,000
C0476	VARIOUS CITY BLDGS REPAIRS	\$ 50,000
C0137	POLICE FACILITIES	\$ 460,000
C0266	NATHANIEL ELY - VARIOUS REPAIRS	\$ 275,000
C0327	VARIOUS BLDGS-ENERGY CONSERVATION	\$ 25,000
C0644	BRANCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 65,000
C0361	COLLECTION SYSTEM REHABILITATION	\$ 1,000,000
C0360	PUMP STATION UPGRADE/REPLACEMENT	\$ 1,000,000
	Operations & Public Works Subtotal	\$ 21,886,800

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
C0773	SMALL BUSINESS/MAIN ST. PROGRAM	\$ 150,000
C0581	PROJECTED CROSSWALKS / WARNINGS	\$ 30,000
C0441	SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL	\$ 225,000
C0649	NEW SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION	\$ 100,000
C0774	ROWAYTON AVENUE SIDEWALK	\$ 100,000
C0777	NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL	\$ 50,000
C0232	TRAFFIC SIGNALS EQUIPMENT	\$ 500,000
C0528	TRAFFIC SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS	\$ 50,000
NEW	WEST/BELTON/MOTT INTERSECTION	\$ 350,000
NEW	FIELD CARD SCANNING	\$ 150,000
NEW	ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM	\$ 50,000
NEW	ENTREPRENEURSHIP MICROGRANT PROGRAM	\$ 100,000
C0430	SMITH STREET BUILDINGS	\$ 25,000
C0186	L-M MANSION CODE & REPAIRS	\$ 180,000
C0521	ADA ACCESS MILL HILL	\$ 50,000
NEW	ARTS IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM	\$ 25,000
NEW	GATEWAY SIGN REPLACEMENT	\$ 30,000
NEW	STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 150,000
C0465	REVENUE CONTROL EQUIPMENT	\$ 200,000
C0783	PARKING WAYFINDING SIGNAGE	\$ 250,000
	Subtotal Economic & Community Development	\$ 2,765,000
COMMUNITY SERVICES		
C0548	NORWALK NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION	\$ 38,000
C0785	AUDITORIUM REFRESH	\$ 75,000
	Subtotal Community Services	\$ 113,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION		
C0609	CURRICULUM MATERIALS & TEXTBOOKS	\$ 250,000
C0652	AIR CONDITIONING PROGRAM	\$ 500,000
C0595	BOE ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROGRAM	\$ 740,740
NEW	BATHROOM RENOVATIONS	\$ 1,462,000
C0587	CAPITAL REPAIRS & REPLACE BOE	\$ 100,000
C0516	SCHOOL DISTRICT PAVING & CONCRETE	\$ 150,000
C0790	SILVERMINE DRIVEWAY IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 1,500,000
	Board of Education Subtotal	\$ 4,702,740
REDEVELOPMENT		
C0288	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	\$ 250,000
C0591	FACADE IMPROVEMENTS REDEVELOP	\$ 125,000
	Redevelopment Subtotal	\$ 375,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
C0375	CITY TECHNOLOGY	\$ 645,030
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 31,416,972