

**CITY OF NORWALK  
ARTS COMMISSION  
MAY 4, 2021  
VIA ZOOM**

**ATTENDANCE:** Marc Alan, Chair; Robert Abriola, Janet Evelyn, Nori Grudin, Brian Kasper, Jolie Leung Melissa Matuska, Peter Smyth and Emerson Straniti

**ABSENT:** Matthew O’Callaghan, Kadeem Roberts, Steven Rust and Emerson Straniti

**STAFF:** Sabrina Church, Director of Business Development and Tourism

**OTHERS:** Julio Pardo

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Alan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Alan called the Roll as indicated above. Mr. Alan said that Mr. Straniti will be stepping down and that Elizabeth Tardif has been appointed and will be joining in June.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**ADMINISTRATION**

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

**\*\*MR. ABRIOLO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 6, 2021 MINUTES**

**\*\*MR. KASPR SECONDED THE MOTION**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY**

**COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES**

- a) **Budget Committee Update**
  - i) **Finance Update – Nori Grudin & Sabrina Church**

Ms. Grudin reported on the financials. There is a balance of \$6,120. She reported they are in good position and there is currently enough funds to cover Michelle and Telesco. The money needs to be used by June. None of the items on the agenda will be spent for this year's remaining monies. Ms. Church has a separate City budget in which to do things out of, business development. With the capital budget she requested two items they only received one of them. Half of the request for the Art in Public Places Program. We asked for \$50,000 and got \$25,000.

**ii) FY22 Budget – Capital & Operating**

Ms. Church shared her screen and showed the 2021-2022 Capital Budget Appropriations. The other \$25,000 is in the "Arts in Public Places Programs". The arts program is part of tourism. Most of the capital budget requests were cut in half.

**b) Communications Committee Update**

**i) Social Media Update – Michelle Rakowsky & Marc Alan**

Mr. Alan presented on this. There is really nothing to report except for a need for help for the newsletter. It was suggested that they increase Michelle's hours to send out the newsletter. Will continue to promote the MLK project through social media the best they can.

**ii) Event Discussions – Marc Alan, Janet Evelyn, MAD Lab**

**1) ART manifestation**

Mr. Ponte discussed this project. They are looking to obtain monetary sponsorship to make the festival go forward. He gave a further detail as to the permitting and the additional steps needed. Getting ready to file application. They raised over \$600.00. He is going to share the electronic proposal. They are working with an organization entitled RiseUp. They are also working with Sustainable CT, they will match the donation amounts. There will be four muralists to compete. There will be workshops and judging. The only issue they have is financial constraints. The new budget begins on July 1, 2021. Someone questioned where the murals were going to be placed in the Isaac Park area. They are looking to obtain \$7,500. Ms. Church is helping with the promoting/marketing of the event.

Mr. Alan would like to have a discussion to discuss supporting events and how much from the current budget. They will table for another time. They would like to support and have booths at some of the events.

Ms. Evelyn went through how the commission has supported the NICE event in the past, with \$1,000, by buying the banners in the past years.

Mr. Alan is comfortable supporting different sponsorships of \$1,000. They cannot discuss and vote tonight since it is not on the agenda.

**2) Make Music Day**

Mr. Alan is the main person for this event. He would like support from the commission. The remainder of the discussion was passed over.

**3) NICE Festival**

This topic was discussed briefly above.

**c) Infrastructure Committee Update**

**i) MLK update – Janet Evelyn & Julio Pardo**

They do not need to vote on someone heading this committee. With Mr. Straniti leaving they are appointing Mr. Kaspr as acting chair of the committee to get it moving forward.

Ms. Evelyn is giving an update. Part of this was a community cleanup which was held on April 18, 2021. There is a list of potential artists for this. There were 25 submissions of artists. They are looking at 12 of them. Mr. Pardo will send them around for the commission to look at the work. Then the proposals will go to the community and the Mayor's office.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Abriola spoke about Art Speak. It wasn't on the agenda, because it should go to committee level and then the full commission. He spoke briefly about the project to be held at the Wall Street theater in the summer, moderated and streamed. The Art scene in Norwalk was the proposed theme. Should be great for the commission.

**a) Approve the Washington Street Barrier project expenditure with Artist Payments.**

Ms. Church is speaking about this. They are going to use previously art work proposed digitally. They will rotate the designs. Pricing quotes will come back this year. The budgets will cover the project. They need to approve the payments for the artist. There are 32 barriers. They are going to select art from the Maritime Garage Gallery. They just need to provide a stipend. The Mayor's office only want a few to have consistency on the street. There will be an Agreement to execute. They do have the money to cover the project.

**\*\*MR. ABRIOLA MADE A MOTION TO SPEND UP TO \$1,000.00 ON PAYMENTS TO THE ARTISTS**

**\*\*MR. KASPR SECONDED THE MOTION**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b) Discussion on Sponsorship Funding by the Arts commission for 2021-22 events.**

They have already discussed up above. It will stay on for next month.

**c) Approve the addition of 4 hours to Michelle Rakowsky's contract per month for the NAC Newsletter to begin July 1, 2021.**

Ms. Church said they pay her \$625.00 a month right now. Maybe the newsletter should be done quarterly or bi-monthly in order to make sure there is enough content. Her hourly rate is \$25.00/hour. Ms. Church suggested to approve the line item as is, to have a max amount for Michelle.

**\*\*MR. KASPR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE  
\*\*MS. GRUDIN SECONDED THE MOTION  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Kaspr brought up the idea from the ART manifestation earlier. He would like to have the okay to use the Art Commissions logo. To get more sponsors he would like it validated by the Arts Commission. They are also saving two seats for the Arts Commission as judges for the event.

**\*\*MR. KASPR MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE EVENT  
\*\*MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*MR. ABRIOLA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN  
\*\*MS. LEUNG SECONDED THE MOTION  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Bromark  
Telesco Secretarial Services