

**CITY OF NORWALK  
ARTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Mark Alan, Chairman; Nori Grudin, Janet Evelyn (6:34),  
Melissa Metuska, Steve Rust, Elizabeth Tardiff  
STAFF: Sabrina Church  
OTHER: Brad Kerner, (Mural Proposal)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Alan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., acknowledged the above members in attendance, (as appeared on the Zoom meeting screen). He noted that he would reach out to a few members to see if they would be

Ms. Church stated that there was not a quorum present, and the meeting would continue but without votes or approval of items.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Alan stated that approval of minutes would be tabled until the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum. He asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, and there were none.

Chairman Alan noted a change the order of the agenda to have item under VI. New Business b. next on the order of business, as a courtesy to the representative in attendance.

VI. New Business

**b. Review of EcoEvolution/5Fingaz Washington Street/Ironworks Mural Proposal**

Mr. Brad Kerner introduced himself and described his company, Eco Evolution, 105 Washington Street, as an environmental firm specializing in providing products and services with no-carbon footprint, low packaging, eco-friendly to encourage consumer environmental consciousness.

Mr. Kerner presented an Artist Rendering Image of a mural ‘Sweat Dreams’ to be painted on the building at the corner of Washington Street/Iron Works building.

There was a discussion on the positive acceptance of this design and the next steps of the approval process. Ms. Church explained that this Committee does not approve such projects, only the property owner, as there is no City Ordinance involved. She suggested Planning & Zoning should look at this, as past signage had been designated as advertising. She also suggested that Mr. Kernan could show the minutes of this meeting to document that the project was presented to the Committee.

There was a discussion on future gallery openings for local artists and Mr. Kernan explained that he does not have art shows in his gallery, but there is artwork on display.

### **COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES**

#### a. Budget Committee Update

Ms. Grudin reported there is \$7,817 allocated from the budget of \$14,400 leaving \$6,582 remaining of the budget. She noted that there are separate funding for Art in Public Places and MLK Student Art. There was discussion on costs of lighting, and Ms. Church noted that this is also separate with electric, installation and wiring costs covered by WPCA and Eversource funding. It was suggested to follow up with Julio on infrastructure costs.

#### b. Finance Update

Ms. Grudin reviewed the Operating Budget process, and a suggested that a separate Sub-Committee meeting should be held to outline details. Mr. Rust asked if there were available funds remaining from prior years Ms. Church indicated that the City has a ‘use it or lose it’ approach so any funds that are not allocated to a specific project are returned to the City. She added that she does have discretionary funds for infrastructure expenses.

#### Communications Committee Update

Mr. Alan noted that Brien Kaspr informed him there was nothing new to report. He added that some Art in Public Places ideas are in development and will be presented at upcoming meetings.

## Social Media update

Mr. Alan reported that the newsletter is in the works to be published for March/April.

## Infrastructure Committee Update

Mr. Rust spoke about MLK Lighting and the vendor used for installation as recommended by Janet Evelyn. He outlined that there are costs for installation and asked if a sample lighting fixture could be purchased to test color temperature and plug-in capacity at a cost of \$150. Ms. Church replied that if he sent her the link of the item, she could use her P-card to purchase rather than have a reimbursement request.

Mr. Alan suggested it is better to allow owner to purchase items to provide more control over the contractor for installation without adding the mark-up. He suggested this could be a test case to establish a process for future artist solutions with installation. Ms. Church agreed to set up time to meet with Suez.

Ms. Church reported that the Redevelopment Agency staff are reviewing a proposal on Underpass Art that is going through the application process.

## NEW BUSINESS

### a. Review of Norwalk City Hall Art Gallery proposal. (Austin, TX People's Gallery)

Mr. Alan reviewed the Peoples Gallery in Austin Texas that was a similar gallery that could be used as a model when updating the City Hall Gallery for student art. There was discussion on the amount of artwork that has been there on display for the past few years. Ms. Church noted that things could be refreshed, but since the pandemic, there have been few if no in-person meetings or events at City Hall for this artwork to be viewed by the public.

Mr. Alan reported that there is an artist's scan code feature where artwork could be curated through the department for sale based on votes tabulated of the pieces.

Ms. Church reported that City Building & Facilities Dept. is not happy with holes in the walls. Mr. Rust asked if there were funds available for the hanging system, which makes proper installation accurate, very easy and affordable. Ms. Church replied that we could use funds in the ARP - Art Reserve Plan.

b. Traffic Graphic Boxes

Ms. Evelyn discussed the plan for outreach to minority artists and students for project curator consideration. She explained the objectives of local artists' involvement and creating another mural project for consideration. She added that she had contacted Loft Artist Studio on Wilson Avenue and was hoping for a follow up response as well as other organizations to solicit interest in traffic corridor artistry.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Approve the installation of lighting for the pumping station mural in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Account No. 092114505777.

Mr. Alan noted that this item would be tabled to the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MS. TARDIFF MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
MR. RUSH SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Knox  
Telesco Secretarial Services