



CITY OF NORWALK
Norwalk Art Commission
REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2013

ATTENDANCE: Emil Albanese, Chairman
Kathryn Hebert
Chris Bradley
Dennis Bradbury
Becki Christopherson
Jeffrey Price
Susan Wallerstein

OTHERS: Sophia Gevas, Silvermine Arts Center
Georgette Wirth, Wirth Salander
Maribeth Becker

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Hebert called the meeting to order at 8:38AM at the request of Chairman Albanese
Chairman Albanese arrived at 8:40AM.

Ms. Hebert asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Committee on any agenda item. Ms. Becker said yes. Ms. Becker provided information regarding Pop City and said that the goal with POP City is to transform vacant real estate into new temporary creative spaces where art, startups and creative economy energy fill retail space. She said that Norwalk 2.0 is now accepting proposals for POP City and if anyone had any ideas to send them to her or to visit the website at norwalk2.0.

BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NORWALK ARTS COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9 , 2013

****MS. CHRISTOPHERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
** MOTION PASSED
** ONE ABSTENSION- MS. WALLERSTEIN**

2. GARDEN PEOPLE PROJECT AT FODOR FARM (GRAND OPENING 6/10/13, 1:00P.M.)- SOPHIA GEVAS, SILVERMINE ARTS CENTER

Ms. Gevas said that the People Project in being done in collaboration with Brookside Elementary School's third graders and Fodor Farm. She said that they had received a state

grant and came up with a project that included two teaching artists, and the project connects the teaching artists who are specially trained to work with students of all ages and connect with underprivileged schools. She said that the artists are working with the students to help with their curricular needs through the arts. She said that the third graders were divided into five groups and each group has selected a particular vegetable they were going to research, and in the course of research they had to establish a plan on how to research the vegetable and what they were looking for. She said that they will be displaying their research during the culminating event which will be held on June 10, 2013, from 1:00PM-2:00pm at Fodor Farm and they will be presenting this project to the second grade class. Ms. Wallerstein said this was a part of the grants that were awarded which benefited Norwalk from the same grant pool that funded 2.0 Faces on Norwalk.

Ms. Gevas said that the Silvermine Arts Center has also received another large grant for a project and are partnering with other major organizations. She said that is a free public event and will be held at the Silvermine Arts Center on August 10, 2013. Ms. Bradley said that the citywide summer reading program is also scheduled for that day and the grand finale will be held from 3:00PM-4:00PM, and suggested that the two events be partnered. She provided her contact information to Ms. Gevas and asked that she contact her to work out the details.

3. CALF PASTURE BEACH PROJECT

Ms. Wirth provided an update on the Calf Pasture Beach Project and circulated the sample tiles. She said that sponsorship has been a struggle but that the project will be moving forward. She said it would be helpful if anyone could help with finding corporate or individual sponsors. Ms. Hebert asked when the project will be completed. Ms. Wirth said that it will be completed in June, but that she would like to receive more funding prior to the installation. Ms. Hebert asked that Ms. Wirth contact her once the project has been installed so that she can have some press coverage done. Ms. Wirth said that it will be installed no later than July. Ms. Christopherson said that as long as the Arts Commission is supporting the project she will ask the Chamber of Commerce to put something into their newsletter.

4. CITY HALL WPA MURAL PROJECT

Ms. Wallerstein said that the mural group had met with Jim Sylvester and are expanding his work to include preparing a detailed and specific entry point portal plan, and to draft City Hall design standards based on best practice. She said that a meeting will need to be scheduled with Alan Lo and Tad Diesel to discuss the security. Ms. Hebert said that a meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 7, 2013. Ms. Wallerstein said that there is no formal stewardship in the city for the Mural collection and with the help of Diane Beltz-Jacobson and the Lou Schulman are working to replicate the Transit District agreement with other entities currently exhibiting murals. She said that she has started a database that has the 46 city owned pieces and the Law Department will be developing formal agreements. She said that part of the process is to facilitate and promote public awareness and access to the collection. She said that the Historical Commission said that they have in their collection some of the scale drawings that were done for some of the murals.

Ms. Wallerstein said that she would like to acquire a specific room such as room 101 at City Hall for the Gruelle Room so that it would free space up in the big corridors for the bigger pieces. She said that she will also be requesting new fiscal year funds after Jim Sylvester completes the phase II project to engage a graphic designer to work on the branding graphics and a logo. Ms. Hebert said that some of the money that will be carried over into the new fiscal year will be earmarked related to the WPA mural project.

5. CONCERT HALL

Ms. Christopherson provided an update and said that she had a meeting with representatives from "So You Think You've Got Talent" through Mayor Moccia and they will be doing a fundraiser for the concert Hall improvements and are hoping to raise \$60,000, but it is unclear at this time what the money will be spent on. She said that she is aware that Mayor Moccia and Erin Herring have met with the Building Department about developing an improvement plan. She said that it would be helpful to have a representative from the Arts Commission that has a background in performing arts to assist with the plan.

6. FIRE DEPARTMENT PROJECT

Ms. Hebert said that Chief McCarthy had originally contacted Christine Bradley about collaborating on an art installation project at the new Fire Headquarters. Ms. Hebert, Ms. Massey, Ms. Bradley and Sooo-Z Mastropietro met with the Fire Chief and his team to discuss the process and next steps. Ms Hebert said that any expenses would come from the fire department construction project. Ms. Wallerstein said she would encourage him to include photography and other media and to talk to people who have either had their homes or lives saved by members of the fire department. Ms. Hebert said he is working with a photographer on part.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Hebert reported on the updated financial report and that everything has been paid out and that balance left for this fiscal year is \$2,355. She said that because the funds have been earmarked and approved she will be able to carry over the unused funds to next fiscal year unless there are things to be paid for prior to the end of June.

8. MARKETING REPORT

Ms. Christopherson said that there will be a brochure party held on June 20, 2013, from 5:30PM to 7:30PM at the Norwalk Library and that the e-vitas will be going out this week, and for the entertainment she will be asking the Performing Arts organization to do a presentation. She said that in June she will be bringing a proposal to reprint the brochure twice during the next fiscal year to repeat the joint advertising endeavor.

Ms. Christopherson said that the other new proposal she will be bringing in June is for the Children's Art Playground at the SoNo Arts Festival if the Arts Commission thinks it's appropriate. She said that if the Arts Commission would like to set aside \$450 to sponsor an act she can put a table to distribute the brochures and represent all of the Norwalk Arts and said that she thinks it is an easy way to represent what Norwalk has to offer.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No discussion.

10. ACTION ON ANY ITEM DISCUSSED HEREIN

No discussion.

11. NEXT MEETING: JUNE 11, 2013, NORWALK CITY HALL, ROOM 101

12. ADJOURMENT

**** MR. ALBANESE MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dilene Byrd