

December 9, 2014
NAC Meeting

Present: Lynn Massey, Kathy Hebert, Susan Wallerstein, Tony Velez, Jeff Price, Becki Christopherson

Absent: Chris Bradley, Sophia Gevas, Dennis Bradbury

Guests: Maribeth Becker, Diane Jellerette, Julyen Norman

Discussion: We will meet in January and Kathryn will chair. Chris will give the WPA updates and be the point person. The room has been requested for January and Susan will follow up.

November Minutes: We had two November meetings, a business meeting and community conversation. Jeff motion to accept the business meeting minutes; Lynn seconded.

Note: Gerald Foley does not automatically send out notices of public art projects unless it is a big project. Kathy and Susan will follow up with him. Minutes approved unanimously.

Community conversation - some people didn't come because of schedule conflicts; some people didn't come because they don't support the project. Lynn's response was that we need to be ready to listen to discussions without making pre-made judgements. Susan added that the conversations are laid-back and informal, truly conversations, not point and counterpoint or right/wrong. Becki added that we're never going to make everyone happy, and that even if the people who disagreed with the project still didn't agree with the project, they would have benefited from attending just to understand the project better.

Discussion of the Redevelopment Public Art Project: There wasn't a direct invitation to the arts commission to participate in the beginning. This speaks to the need for a policy for public art. However, we are on the road to being treated as a respectable and credible organization that should be able to create and implement such a policy. Susan objected that diversity of age, culture and gender wasn't represented on the curating committee. One change to the community conversation minutes: 2nd bullet, instead of creativity, creative process. Lynn approve, Becki second, passed unanimously; Jeff abstained.

Budget: \$7,000 remaining for mayor's gallery, chamber dues did not come out of our budget; Kathy will check to see if we got it. Also funds for public bus tours, new WPA murals, the digital media and signage plan, and a presence at the June Norwalk Arts Festival.

\$10,000 is left for the NEA grant and is allocated for student docent program.

We requested \$16,000 for next year from the city budget to continue the work we are doing, plus traffic graphic.

Motion to approve the financial report - Becki; second - Jeff; passed unanimously.

Project Updates

We issued a RFQ for a consultant to assist with sample public art signage options, educate us on options for digital interface - QR codes, MP3, etc.

Julyen submitted a proposal for public art signage and digital interface and he was the only response. He presented his proposal to us.

Discussion: Please be sure to include why traditional approaches are best, including print options. Most of the numbers come from the cost of labor for the experts and meetings, Julyen's time, etc. He will put it as many hours as it takes, and if it takes more then he will absorb it. Susan noted that the RFQ said that digital interface plan would be used for web and print interface. \$2800 will come from the NEA grant, and \$1000 will come from the local budget. The funds for the signage for WPA are in the capital funds that were approved for the Arts Commission that do not expire in June. It does not cover signage for other public art, only for the WPA.

The RFQ went out through the Cultural Alliance list and the google group. Another RFQ will go out for the production of the signage. Susan suggested to Diane that she should serve as the liaison between the arts commission, the historical society and Julyen because of her interconnectedness within the scope of the project.

Motion to approve proposal, Jeff; second Lynn; passed unanimously.

Mayor's Gallery

Presented by Tony; local architect Peter Beck has done this for other organizations and met with Susan and Steve Wallerstein to walk through the gallery. Major costs will include paint, lighting and the permanent hanging system. There is a meeting later today with the curator of the Mayor's Gallery in Stamford, Lina Morielli, to learn about their gallery. The plan will include who decides what goes in the space and what the policy is. The proposal will eventually go to the Mayor for approval with oversight by the Arts Commission. Request for budget in January meeting, cost estimates. Lynn pointed out that it is difficult to hang a gallery because of the curved wall vs. the rotunda space, which is also a difficult space. She suggests that some pieces be permanent, particularly in the curved space. Susan reminded that we need to remember that the people who work in the mayor's office will also have an opinion about what goes up.

We can also use the pieces that were donated to hang in Room 231 and relocate them to the Mayor's Gallery, or perhaps other pieces of public art.

WPA - movie on last summer done by Norwalk 2.0; 9 new students from Briggs' Friday Program, led by Suzanne and two docent volunteers are being trained. One page description of the tours that will go with the state bus tour program. Docent coordinator is marketing program to other schools outside on Norwalk.

Housing Authority - Jeff Price hosted the HA for a tour the week before Thanksgiving; the art of business, framing, Escher; they will be wrapping on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Partnership Conversations - February (TESS) and April (MTC)

Public Art Inventory, presented by Julyen; we will have a hard copy back-up as well as pdf's; it will be linked in Past Perfect software that the historical society holds. Julyen will be entering the data into the database and then press releases will go out. His work on the digital media

plan will inform the discussion about making the collection available digitally. The final copy will be produced after the database assigns identifying numbers to it.

Reproductions of vintage photographs were not included; the originals are already cataloged in the historical library.

Fire HQ - the assistant chief did research on photographs, Erik T scanned and enlarged them, so they are reproductions. They are also hung in a restricted area so nobody can see them. They are in the report because there is no other documentation anywhere else. Lynn pointed out that in the firehouse, there is a remnant of the twin towers (the bell). It needs to be documented both as public art and historically.

Jeff will take the inventory draft and make it available for public viewing at the Artist's Market.

Public Policy

Julyen is reviewing the materials we have submitted and will provide a draft of the policy for the January meeting. We can edit and send back to him and he will pull it together for the January meeting.

City Hall Capital Improvement Project

RFQ - Bob Trooper from Hang-Ups submitted a quote of \$2,000-\$4,000 for a relocation of the WPA murals; no other proposals. Will pursue in February, 2015.

Announcements:

Jeff issued a call for first person participation in support of the arts and the artists.

Lynn recommended the Civil Right and Human Rights Museum in Atlanta.

Tony is meeting with Leslie, who is the curator of the Norwalk Museum at Lockwood House, regarding an exhibit planned for a June the opening. It will be on 20/21st century immigration to Norwalk. Duvian and Jahmaine will be at the meeting, the three will be the artists involved with the exhibition. Tony's project will be on Washington Village, a reaction to the pending demolition. It is the oldest housing project in the state of CT. The Norwalk Housing Authority is now interested. He met with Curtis Law, will be involved in a NEA grant with Silvermine. He is not going as a representative of the Norwalk Arts Commission. There was a discussion about whether there a policy around members being involved with other organizations as official representatives. It was concluded that in general, everyone represents themselves. If the course of the activity a member identifies a role for the commission then the commission member loop back to us.

Motion to adjourn - Tony, second Becki; passed unanimously.