

East Windsor Arts and Culture
Meeting Minutes
8/8/23
6:30 PM
East Windsor Town Hall

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

- I. Call to Order/Attendance
Debbie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the committee members in attendance were Sharon Aprea, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavalone, Debbie Williams, and Russell Williams; Sarah Muska, Arts and Culture liaison and community participants included: Kristin Blume, Russ Salk, Rich Tuller, and Jeff Holcombe.
- II. Approval of minutes of 6/13/23 meeting
Debbie confirmed with the group that members had a chance to review the minutes from the June 13, 2023, meeting. She further asked if there was any discussion. Russell Williams made a motion to approve the minutes and Sharon Aprea seconded; the meeting minutes were approved.
- III. Budget/Grants
Debbie reported that we received \$4k from the town, so with the approximately \$2k in grants left we have about \$6k in total in our budget. The EW Greater Together Community Fund has opened its third round of grant giving. Organizations can request up to \$5k for a project that "directly benefits the East Windsor Community". Applications are due September 18th. Debbie encouraged the group to contact her with any ideas or questions in the next couple of weeks.
- IV. On-going projects
 - a. The Photography Contest was a success, and we now have one item left and that is the framing and displaying the winning photos. Twelve winners were awarded Amazon gift cards. Debbie showed the group some options including a type of framing from the company Mixed Tiles. Debbie went to Good Mornings and the owner is open to having the photography contestant winners displayed at this restaurant. Karen inquired about the quality of the tiles and what the budget is for this part of the photography contest. There is a company that does free prints and Kristin Blume will let us know. Sharon Aprea made a motion to approve \$150 for the framing of the contest winners' photographs and Christina Posniak seconded and the motion was approved.

- b. Collaboration with AHRC- naming of owl
 Tuesday, August 1 was National Night Out at East Windsor Park (the Reservoir) from 5-8 p.m.. Arts and Culture hosted a table with pictures of some of our projects. Debbie also insured that the carved owl was there for the owl-naming contest. Debbie called attention to the list of names she collected and provided to the group for our input and feedback. She asked that we get back to her with our top three choices within one weeks' time.
- c. Collaboration with Trolley Museum/BB Center for Arts
 Debbie passed around the trolley car ads that the young artists did, and the commission attendees remarked and were overwhelmed by what a great job that these artists did.
- d. Collaboration with Soccer Club/HS
 Debbie is willing to collect names of high school students who would be interested in collaborating with the soccer club.
- e. BBES mural update
 Sharon gave an update and showed attendees a picture of the final mural. Community participant, Russ asked about what the One School, One Book program was, and Debbie explained that the Broad Brook School has been doing this for ten years so that is why there are ten books. Every year the entire school reads the same book and then discusses it when students return from summer vacation. Sharon and Karen told the group how the fabric can be applied. It took Sharon 20-30 hours to complete this project. Karen was suggesting to Sharon that it be explained to others how long it takes to do a project like this which would be education about an artist's process. Sharon incorporated the book characters into the mural. The mural will be on the back wall of the cafeteria. Debbie and Sharon called for volunteers if you are available to put up the mural on Friday; Sarah Muska can come, everyone who can attend should bring an old white tee shirt to be used as a rag to apply the mural.

V. New Projects

- a. Band fundraiser at EWP
- b. Ideas for GTCF grant?
 Applications for this grant can be applied for up to \$5k. Some important areas to consider as we think about grant ideas, GTCF takes into consideration if the project is sustainable and how many people would be impacted. They are motivated by ideas that are tangible things and have

a lasting benefit. Debbie met with an artist associated with RiseUp who has a concept of using a decommissioned bus stop to create a cloud chair / public art piece; it could be placed in the volunteer park (near Osborne) where there is already a butterfly garden. We discussed something artistic to be a part of the splash pad. We discussed if there would be lighting around the artist sculpture to prevent it from being vandalized. It would have to go on city land where it would be insured. We could consider the soccer fields near Abbe Road. Russ Salk offered an idea of painted bluebird houses where we could build them, have artists paint them and use sustainable materials. The Cloud Chair artist would need to give Debbie an estimate. East Windsor would be great for a farm museum Jeff Holcombe offered as an idea. Karen has two extra tobacco sculptures that she could donate.

c. Sculpture/visual art at EWP

d. Ideas for future projects?

We discussed that there are 350+ living veterans in town and 30 active on-duty service people. We discussed that we should consider discussion on this topic in the future. Sarah Muska agreed to bring it up to the veteran's commission.

e. Upcycle contest

There is a community member who has an idea but she was not able to attend; she has been invited to the next meeting.

f. Performing arts awards idea

Community member, Russ Salk joined us to present the following idea. He offered that Arts and Culture should do something for our East Windsor student performers; we do so much for our athletes; maybe a certificate of acknowledgement. He is thinking of a tee shirt for those who are participating in the performing arts. Something to make these students feel special; Russ specifically suggested high school students. He also suggested a website that would invite former East Windsor High School alumni who have participated in the theatre or the arts. This could be a part of our website and not the whole Arts and Culture site. Debbie will ask the principal if they have any acknowledgement of arts students.

g. Possible mural at Good Mornings (near Main Street Fish Market)

h. In-school field trip for EWHHS

Debbie has a meeting with Allison Anderson, principal of East Windsor High School.

VI. Communication

- a. Russ Salk
- b. Nate Bannish

Nate is an East Windsor High School graduate who is currently attending UConn. He would like to initiate a food drive to support a local food bank. He envisions live music performed by his band and he would donate all the food and refreshments. Nate has a six-piece band, and he would like to do this in September. Arts and Culture would just need to promote this and facilitate him booking the EW Reservoir Pavilion; this will incur no cost to the Arts and Culture commission. Debbie made a motion for Nate Bannish to initiate this food drive where his band would play, and Christina Posniak seconded the motion and the commission agreed to pass this motion.

- c. Khamp Phimvongsa, Gina Alimberti
- d. Mercury
- e. Kelly Meyer

VII. Public Participation

Debbie and Sarah reminded the group that part of our mission is to collaborate with other commissions. Debbie reported that several people have reached out with ideas for the A+C Committee.

VIII. Adjourn

Debbie adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Posniak, *East Windsor Arts and Culture Committee Recording Secretary*