

East Windsor Arts and Culture
Meeting Minutes
9/12/2023
6:30 PM
Park Hill Community Room

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 Bernie Duffy, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavolone, and Debbie Williams; Sarah Muska, Arts and Culture liaison and community participants included: Noreen Farmer (Member of the East Windsor Board of Education), Jeff Holcombe, and Kelly Meyer.

II. Approval of minutes of 8/8/23 meeting

Debbie confirmed with the group that members had a chance to review the minutes from the August 8, 2023, meeting. She further asked if there was any discussion. Karen Stavolone made a motion to approve the minutes and Debbie Williams seconded; the meeting minutes were approved.

III. Budget

Debbie projects that we have approximately \$10,700 in our budget.

IV. On-going projects

a. Photography contest-photos framed and displayed at Good Mornings

The owner of Good Mornings, Bonnie, has gotten good feedback on the contest winner photographs; she will have the photographs up for six months and then they will be returned to the artists.

b. Collaboration with AHRC- owl is named!

The owl's name is for the Goddess of nature – Gaia. Jenna Pomeroy is the winner who received the most votes for the name, Gaia.

c. Collaboration with Trolley Museum/BB Center for Arts- ads to printer

The ads are at the printer. There were some issues with the large size of the ads.

d. Collaboration with Soccer Club/HS

Debbie talked to Joe Unsworth who heads the EW Soccer Club. The EW school art teacher let Debbie know how much paint would be needed for this job. Debbie will purchase the paint and she will have students start the most basic parts of the design like painting in the logo.

e. BBES mural reveal planned for 9.13.23

Debbie reported that Sharon would not be able to make it for the reveal because she is out of town. We talked about how the artist should be there. Doreen Farmer offered that she felt confident that she would be able to postpone until two weeks from now when hopefully Sharon can attend.

f. GTCF Grant

We discussed that the grant proposal includes an ask for the full \$5,000 for the purchase of ADA picnic tables. We would put in for the price of the two tables; and this would be an opportunity to commission two artists to paint each one respectively. One of the picnic tables will go to the library. We discussed that the chairs would be a good opportunity for high school student artists to paint.

g. AARP Grant

We discussed the focus of the AARP grant, where a proposal can be made up to \$5,000, for art classes for the community. Debbie shared that a member of the commission cannot be one of the teachers. Debbie talked to two outside artists, one artist who could teach Plein Air technique and the other artist who could teach a photography class. We discussed that it would potentially be about \$400 per artist for each class; the funds would pay for the artist and art supplies for the classes.

h. CoA Grant

This grant has a minimum of \$1,000 and Debbie reported that our grant proposal has been approved to the next step of the grant process.

V. New Projects

a. Food Drive fundraiser at EWP 10.1.23

Debbie offered Bernie, Sharon, Sarah, and Karen the opportunity to be vendors at this food drive fundraiser. The fee for the vendors is canned goods and the food drive will benefit the Five Corner Cupboard. Debbie indicated that the minimum amount for insurance is \$100. Noreen Farmer offered to donate \$100 for the insurance for this event.

b. Sculpture/visual art at EWP

We agreed to put this on the backburner until we have the funds to do this.

c. Upcycle contest/birdhouses

Kelly Meyer joined our meeting to offer an idea or concept for our commission to consider. She explained that Windsor has a series called the First Town Downtown which included a Monarch Butterfly festival and an upcycle auction. Towns people created and donated upcycle items and these were auctioned. The proceeds of the auction would support a charity or would be a way for us to raise money for the commission. Karen suggested that the 2024 Community Day could include an upcycle auction. Sarah made note that the upcycle items were displayed at local businesses. Debbie mentioned that Russ came to us and talked about the idea of the birdhouses. We could have a contest on the most creative and do an auction for money. The Monarch festival was the event itself and it was their third annual upcycle.

Karen talked about how we should consider a theme for Community Day the upcycle auction concept could be used as a fundraiser for the mural at the Warehouse Point Library.

The birdhouses could be an art installation. Another idea is we challenge the community to make a replica of buildings in town. We could partner with FRC or Work and Play and have some groups make the birdhouses and other artists paint them.

We need to think about penciling in a date for the Community Day in May 2024. The cookie lady who made the cookies last year offered to make cookies for our Community Day again.

d. Performing arts awards idea

e. Mural at Good Mornings

The owner of Good Mornings would like to have a mural on her wall at the restaurant. Debbie brought in Matt Conway and he will find an artist for this mural project.

f. EWHS projects/Open House

Debbie will be at a table representing Arts and Culture to talk about projects that we have done as a group at the East Windsor High School Open House.

g. Mural at WHP Library

The head of Library still wants to have mural and we agreed that we are open to raising money for the mural. The library had to spend money on a new AC system this year that they were not anticipating. Matt Conway is being brought in for advice.

h. BBES projects

Broad Brook Elementary School is thinking about painting the door to the kitchen at the school.

Sarah let us know that the Veterans Association are open to working with the Arts and Culture Commission; the chairman is Jim Bartons.

Debbie let us know that the Parks and Recreation Scarecrow contest is beginning soon and the theme for this year is East Windsor Strong. We discussed as a group that we could create a scarecrow depicting one of the mascots of one of the schools, either a bulldog, panther, or a wildcat.

VI. Communication

- a. Nate Bannish
- b. Khamp Phimvongsa, Gina Alimberti
- c. Mercury
- d. Kelly Meyer
- e. Erin Horanzy
- f. Matt Conway
- g. Allison Anderson
- h. Laura Foxx

VII. Public Participation

Noreen Farmer wanted to thank us for the work that we are doing as a commission. She told us that the collaboration we are doing between the town and community is awesome.

VIII. Adjourn

Debbie adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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