

**East Windsor Arts and Culture  
Meeting Agenda  
12/13/22  
6:30 PM  
Town Hall, Broad Brook**

\*These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting\*

**I. Call to Order/Attendance**

Debbie Williams called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and those in attendance were commission members: Debbie Williams, Russell Williams, Christina Posniak, Bernie Duffy, and Karen Stavolone. Jeff Holcombe from the Agonist Gallery joined the commission for the meeting.

**II. Approval of minutes of 11/08/22 meeting**

Debbie made note that the November 8 meeting minutes were included with tonight's agenda. Russell Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2022, and Bernie Duffy seconded.

**III. New Business**

**A. Grants/Budget (this year and next)**

Debbie reported further on the grant submission to the Greater Together Community Fund. No part of our proposal for \$10,000 for our Community Day event was funded. The commission members were disappointed and disheartened at this decision to not at least fund a portion of our proposal. We discussed as a group what that means for our event. Debbie reported that she was told that the Greater Together Community Fund is funding projects they feel create a lasting or permanent benefit. They want to fund concrete things. An example was given like a bench for the American Heritage River Commission (AHRC). So not events but tangible things. Debbie proposed that the committee not move forward with the Community Day but instead take on some of the things we outlined in the recent grant proposals. Debbie further reported that we have close to \$6k in our commission budget and if we do not spend down \$4k of this by June 30 then we will lose the ability to use these funds.

The commission brainstormed ideas the commission could pursue. Karen talked about her thoughts and vision for a mobile art bus that could belong to the town and the bus travels around town and promotes art participation. We discussed supporting a professional development day for teachers where they could take a class to promote social emotional wellbeing through the arts. We could also support the establishment of classes that would offer hands-on art like for example jewelry-making. Commission funds could go toward the materials and stipends for artists. Wadsworth Atheneum Art Museum does similar kinds of classes or programs. We could support having an artist do it and the commission would give them a stipend, so it was not so expensive for members of the town. We discussed how much this might cost and determined that \$4,000 would be a good amount to begin some kind of program like this. We also discussed a Pop-up Community Art Workshop and an Artist Day at the school where the arts as a career would be promoted. We discussed printing the photographs from the Photography contest and framing them, we could then sell them to raise funds, or simply display them at local businesses and/or town buildings. We

also discussed purchasing swag with the Arts and Culture logo. Debbie shared with the group the Art is Good art installation where you can purchase foam puzzle pieces. We could purchase them and /or have businesses pay for them. \$10 a puzzle piece. The commission discussed how we could explore commissioning and funding an outdoor sculpture. Parks and Recreation have agreed to provide the space where the sculpture could be displayed. We discussed the idea depending on how much this would cost how we could fundraise for it.

## **B. CT Murals Directorship**

Debbie reported that Matt Conway from RiseUP for the Arts and CT Murals offered her, and she has accepted a Director position with this organization. She is pleased to be able to make a difference in this way and looks forward to finding partnerships between CT Murals and this commissions work.

## **IV. On-going/Old Business**

### **A. DPW plow**

Debbie reported that the painting on the DPW plow has been completed. The commission connected the DPW and the artist. The DPW reported that the artist's work met their desire and expectation. The artists had to work on the plow outside, not indoors as was previously thought by the commission.

### **B. Collaboration with AHRC**

Debbie showed the commission a picture of the woodpecker that has been progressing by the chain saw artist. We cannot permanently place at the Scantic River State Park trailhead yet as we need to get permission from the DEEP. We must fill out paperwork with the State of CT, so the woodpecker is going to be delivered to the trailhead for the New Year's Day hike and then removed until we are able to confirm approval.

### **C. Collaboration with schools**

#### **a. EWHS: grad project, tennis court fence project**

The tennis court fence cups project has been funded mainly by an anonymous donor. As soon as the Board of Ed approves, we will move forward with he project.

#### **b. BBES: Rock River, 1B1S mural**

The commission agreed to ask several landscaping companies to donate one yard of rocks. If we do not secure funds by February commission meetings, we will vote to use commission funds to purchase the rocks for the rock river. Christina Posniak will write and follow up on letters to landscape companies.

Regarding the book's mural, Debbie proposed to pay the artists that are going to work on the mural. The mural will have ten books. The artist for the Trolley Museum Mural was paid \$1,500 and it took the artist one weekend. There will be three artists for the book mural. Two of the artists are commission members Karen Stavalone, and Sharon Aprea. We agreed as a commission to ask Arts & Culture Commission advisor, Sarah Muska at the next meeting if members of the commission could be paid for project work.

**c. Public display of student work**

**D. Mural at BB Garage**

**E. Trolley museum collaboration**

**F. Town Hall utility box (wrap)**

**G. Photography contest**

These agenda items will be shelved until the next meeting.

**V. Communication**

**a. Ed Crowell- Bear Creek Studio**

**b. Alex Ranniello**

**c. Lindsey Tran, Laura Fox, Matt Ryan- BBES**

**d. Kat McClelland, Allison Anderson- EWHS**

**e. Lindsay Vigue, Courtney Roberson, Jason Bowsza**

**VI. Public Participation**

**VII. Adjourn**

Debbie makes a motion to adjourn 7:31 pm and Christina Posniak seconds and the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted by Debbie Williams, Chair of the East Windsor Arts and Culture Committee**