

East Windsor Arts and Culture
Meeting Minutes
5/9/2023
Meeting took place at 6:30 PM in the 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 6:30 p.m. and committee members in attendance were Sharon Aprea, Bernie Duffy, Christina Posniak, Karen Stovolone, Debbie Williams, and Russell Williams. Jeff Holcombe and Sarah Muska, commission liaison were also present.

II. Approval of minutes of 4/11/23 meeting

Debbie asked if we were all able to see a copy of minutes from April 11, 2023, and asked if there was a need for discussion. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes and Bernie seconded and the commission unanimously approved.

Following the approval of the minutes, Debbie stated before we left the meeting this evening, we each had the town form, Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment Policy, to sign.

III. On-going projects

a. Photography contest

Twelve photographers have submitted 31 photos across each of the contest categories. The last day to submit further photography is this Friday, May 12. We already have three judges who have been secured and approved. The group discussed that the judges have a week to agree on the winners. Debbie initiated a discussion about what the prizes should be; we agreed as a group that gift cards are the way to go. There will be a prize winner for each of the thirteen categories and we will have first place and second place prizes. We will have seven at \$50 and six at the \$25 level. Debbie made a motion to approve, and Bernie seconded, and the motion was passed.

b. Collaboration with AHRC

Debbie passed around a picture of the progress of the carved barred owl. Debbie recounted that AHRC identified a tree for the barred owl to be attached to but she reported that unfortunately the area around that tree got so overgrown so quickly that the members of the AHRC are not able to clear it out to prepare it to be ready for the trails day. The barred owl carving will be on display for that event and then installed later in the year.

c. Collaboration with Trolley Museum/BB Center for Arts

Khamp Phimyongsa, the founder of the Board Brook Center for the Arts has been teaching the classes at the Trolley Museum to the students who are preparing the advertisements which will be placed in about six or seven of the trolley cars. Based on how much time there is to spend the Greater Community

funds, we are considering keeping the opportunity for student artists on this project open until such time as we can no longer use those funds.

Greater Community is up for another round of calling for grant proposals. We need to decide between now and August if we would like to apply for a grant. Debbie reported that \$1,500/\$2,000 is the general grant amount. Sharon asked for the list of projects that were accepted last year and Debbie recounted several of the ones that were accepted including: Warehouse Point Library, new ramps for skate park, eagle scout in town applied to have sheltered seats for a location, Broad Brook Library got a new floor. AHRC received funding for a bench and trail signs, Parks and Recreation got funding for new swim lessons, and the Historical Society got money for repair. Debbie encouraged this commission to consider something tangible and that could support the whole community.

d. Collaboration with Soccer Club/EWHS projects

Debbie reported on the progress in the collaboration with the EW soccer club. Students came up with a design for the mural and approval has been granted from the soccer club and has been with the art teacher from the high school to execute on the last part. Debbie has again contacted the art teacher now to ask if Debbie could be in touch with the students directly.

Debbie met with Alex who works for a company that produces wraps which can be put around mechanicals or other less appealing objects. The high school would like more curb appeal in the front of the building. Wraps can even be installed on brick. While the previous meeting was cancelled the high school principal, Debbie and Alex are meeting tomorrow, May 10.

e. BBES projects

Debbie reported that Principal Foxx loved the preliminary book mural which Sharon prepared. Principal Foxx reported at the time to Debbie that she was checking with the superintendent. Debbie has not heard back from Principal Laura Foxx for a few weeks now. Debbie let us know that she dropped off markers for the end of the year fifth grade project.

Joe Sauerhoefer, the secretary of the building commission and active member of the Planning & Zoning Commission approached Debbie about a guardrail and electric box in town wondering if we might make these look more visually appealing. Debbie spoke with the wrap company but previous outreach to Eversource has confirmed that Eversource does not want any wraps on their mechanicals; they cited this time that a wrap would impede their ability to locate the electric boxes.

f. May 20th Arts and Culture Day

We spent the remaining time of this meeting discussing the last few details of the Arts and Culture Day.

i. Vendors

There will be eight vendors who are all from East Windsor (live in EW or have a business in EW), Bernie, Karen, Joe Berger, Kiara, Kerry Joseph and Jeff Holcombe.

ii. Music

We will have three different musicians; we will have music the whole time without breaks as was reported previously. The musicians will be under the tent and the vibe will be chill and acoustic overall.

iii. Food

Debbie and Rusty reported that several food vendors have agreed to donate their food or with a deep discount. Jimmy Chens is giving us a deal on egg rolls; Sophia's will give us 50 meatballs; Belvedere; and Villa of Lebanon. We discussed ordering little packets of pretzels for ease. Debbie is asking if Crafted Kitchen would donate bottled water. We will have cookies with our Arts and Culture logo. Debbie recounted that she completed a Health Department form and paid the fee. This fee goes towards a consultation by the health department; the Health Department has yet to contact Debbie to set up a time for the consultation. Debbie has confirmed that payment went through, and the Health Department has their fee. Debbie will coordinate with Karen to obtain the chafing dishes. Sharon has a bunch of saucers that can be used inside the chafing dishes.

iv. Demonstrations: Khamp is going to have a tent-like structure set up and participants can throw paint on a canvas; Sharon is demonstrating a paint pour activity and Sharon showed the commission what this activity will look like at the meeting. Sharon is going to make sure to have enough for 24 participants in this activity; Alex is doing a community art piece that will result in a piece that will say "East Windsor has HeART" Karen is going to demonstrate pottery throwing. Karen's demonstration will include showing how to make a foot. Karen suspects she will be able to go for about an hour before she has to end; throwing pottery is strenuous and she will not be able to do this the whole event.

v. Activities

Debbie bought sidewalk chalk and Christina will demonstrate and work with participants in making an origami box. Debbie asked the group if we needed another activity and explained a possible craft. After discussion it was agreed that we did not need another activity.

vi. Community artwork

vii. Shirts

The shirts are in and Debbie passed out each of our tees that we will wear at the event. The first 50 kids are going to get one too. Debbie is getting a shirt for Jeff Holcombe who is a regular public participant in our commission meetings.

viii. Volunteers

Commission members can get there anytime between 9:00 and 12:00/noon. Volunteers will likely be needed to hand out tee shirts, manage the decorate tee shirt table, hand out food, and assist with activities. Debbie reported that she knows there are four kids available. We talked about continuing to get the word out about the event. Debbie gave an overview of where the signs are. There are postings on Facebook, and she encouraged people to keep sharing. Not too late to put out more flyers for advertising for the Community event. We will consider kids to be 12 and under. Commission members will take pictures of the event to use later for promotion.

IV. Added agenda items/New Business

Debbie reported that one of the projects she was thinking about is to find artists who would be interested in doing what is called "yarn bombing" where an artist knits a "sweater" on a tree or other object. There is a yarn artist who works in the town hall and Debbie is encouraging her to consider doing this.

V. Communication

- a. Allison Anderson, Kat McLelland- EWHS
- b. Joe Unsworth- EWSC
- c. Matt Conway
- d. Khamp Phimvongsa -BB Center for the Arts
- e. Gina Alimberti -Trolley Museum
- f. Jared Welcome
- g. Alex Raniello

VI. Public Participation

VII. **Adjourn**

Debbie adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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