

**East Windsor Arts and Culture
Meeting Minutes
2/14/23
6:00 PM
Town Hall, Broad Brook**

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. Commission members in attendance were Sharon Aprea, Christina Posniak, Karen Stavalone, Debbie Williams, and Russell Williams and community member, Jeff Holcombe of the Agonist Gallery.

II. Approval of minutes of 1/11/22 meeting

Russell Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2023, commission meeting, Debbie Williams seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

III. New Business

a. Business cards and banner

Debbie presented to the commission members Arts and Culture business cards and a large-sized banner that could be used for events. The group discussed how attractive the logo looks and how the cards will help as we are out in the community and the banner at events.

b. Block Party at EWHS

Debbie reported that she attended and handed out flyers for the photography contest.

c. Mural at the WHPL (Warehouse Point Library)

Debbie reported a conversation and partnership with the Warehouse Point Library. There is a blank wall in the library and there will be a dinosaur and books theme to the mural. East Windsor was one of the first places in the world where dinosaur bones were found so the library felt that this was a compelling theme for their space. The library is looking to build a whole set of projects around the dinosaurs. Matt Conway from CT Murals met with WHPL along with Debbie and they also discussed an interactive kids activity for some other areas within the library. Some further areas where there may be areas to paint a mural are the ramp, columns, and ceiling tiles. The team at the library has also offered an area in the building for a gallery for local artists. They were open to ideas about what artists would go in the gallery.

d. Presentation to BoS 2.15.23

Debbie has been bumped next week for the presentation.

e. Displaying/selling more artists' work at local businesses

We currently sponsor an artist at the Three Sisters Nutrition located in the center of Broad Brook. The artist has not sold any works. Three Sisters will keep up the artwork for another two weeks. The art is inexpensive but there is not a lot of foot traffic at this store in town. We could think about another artist that would want to sell. Jeff Holcombe talked about how artists do a better job of selling works at restaurants because there is more foot traffic.

Debbie will try the Farm Table and Problem Solved; Sharon will ask at Broad Brook Brewery. Other ideas are the new bakery in Windsorville, Frankie B's. Roberto's (Monday night is trivia night) and the Baker and the Brew (Christina will ask daughter Sarah to ask as she worked there and knows the owner.) Lastly Jeff Holcombe offered the Agonist Gallery and mentioned At the Dam.

IV. On-going/Old Business

a. Big ideas for budget \$/collaboration with RiseUp, Inc.

a. May 20th

The commission members discussed the Arts and Culture festival. We have already reserved the pavilion for this community day. We discussed having artists do what they do and how we will put a call out for artists. Karen described a community project that involved weaving that she has seen and participated in. Karen also described other interactive community projects, like constructing coil pots. We talked about other arts and culture activities like spoken word events and poetry. We also discussed having music, food and possibly dance. We agreed that it would be best for this to be a kid friendly event. Both Karen and Sharon confirmed that this is the beginning of the artists' season. We considered having it catered by a restaurant like Villa of Lebanon. For the music we could employ a high school jazz band or a DJ. We envision that one whole side of the event space will be arts and crafts vendors (5-6 vendors) and the other side a kids artist activity. One potential way to draw people to this event is to do outreach like reaching out to the boy scouts and girl scouts. Could this event help any scouts to get their badge? We agreed as a group that we would each individually work on ideas and propose plans at the next meeting:

- Music - Rusty
- Activities – Christina will investigate origami cranes activity and what kind of time this kind of activity would take.
- Demonstration – Karen, clay activity like pinch pots
- Food – Sharon
- Vendors – Debbie

b. Puzzle Pieces/other community project

c. EWHS mural

b. Collaboration with AHRC

We are looking for a new carver, as the AHRC has already committed to spending \$650. The AHRC is appealing to the grant committee to see if they can use all their grant money to another project and take other funds for the carving. AHRC discussed two smaller carvings not located on the trail head but in a tree. Mounting the sculpture up higher would prevent it from not being in marshland. Karen was cautioned that if they are in the trees they could be target practice. Debbie proposed having animals that would enhance the braille trail. The carver that Debbie found did large and small carvings. We discussed the possibility of investigating a metal sculpture; we talked about keeping in mind that wood carvings do age over time.

c. Collaboration with schools

a. EWHS: grad project, tennis court fence project

We are in the process of ordering the cups that are three colors.

b. BBES: Rock River, 1B1S mural, indoor mural?

Christina reported that she has an interested party to donate the river rocks but they have not confirmed; she will report back at the next meeting.

c. Public display of student work

Debbie has purchased plastic sleeves. We discussed as a group several different ways in which we could display. Fabric display ones are more expensive. Graphic Dimensions are for art fair exhibitors.

d. Photography contest

V. Communication

- a. Lois Heller- WHPL
- b. Allison Anderson- EWHS
- c. Matt Conway

VI. Public Participation

VII. Adjourn

Debbie makes a motion to close the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and Russell Williams seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Posniak, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the East Windsor Arts and Culture Committee