



**City Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 6:30 pm
City Hall Staff Lounge, 2nd Floor and Zoom.us
111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

ATTENDEES: Lindsay Vigue, Kim Villanti, Andrea Adams, Samantha Buonafede, Juliet Norton, Mark Walerysiak, April Dews
COUNCIL LIAISON: Greg Hahn
HONORARY: Bill Stortz
GUESTS: Erica Benoit, Parks Dept.
Mya Michaud, 6th Grade, Northeast Middle School

I. Call to Order – Lindsay Vigue called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Public Participation

Mya Michaud made a presentation about changing the Bristol flag and provided an image (design). Greg Hahn asked her to send her PowerPoint to him. He will speak to the Mayor and will bring this to the City's attention. (see attached images)

III. Approval of Minutes

Andrea Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2021, seconded by Juliet Norton. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

IV. Welcome

Lindsay welcomed new commissioner April Dews.

V. Discussion of upcoming commissioned art projects for Spring 2021

Lindsay reviewed the possible projects that were discussed last month.

- Train trestle: Sam has had difficulty getting them to respond (railroad).
 - The first priority would be Main St. and the second would be Middle St. There should be enough funds.
 - The Mayor is also looking at doing something with the trestle itself. However, this may have a conflict with ad space.
 - These are gateways into the City and they need to look good.
 - A call could be put out to artists around the State also and have submissions come in for about a month.
- Locks of Love:
 - When people get their marriage license they could be given a lock.

- Federal Hill would not work. Parks has discussed this and it is an historic area.
- Parks also discussed that there would have to be a formal plan before it goes before the Parks Board. They were also concerned about the weight. Would this not be a problem in Bristol as it would be on a smaller scale. Discussion.

Bill Stortz excused himself at 7:05 p.m.

- Discussion continued about the Main St. bridge and how to proceed, as long as they are able to obtain permission. Budget per bridge was discussed. Lindsay suggested about \$8,000 per bridge (doing both sides).
 - Greg commented they may have to adjust the cost as they may have to hire a policeman which would increase the cost. He will inquire. April suggested consulting with a muralist ahead of time to see what costs to expect.
- The commission could look into asphalt art – if there is already a space identified.
- The walkway art in Rockwell has faded. It would be better in a pedestrian area rather than one with traffic - perhaps a sidewalk. Suggestions were a Centre Sq. site or “The Patch.” Greg reported that that green space is actually part of a “lot” and he will look into.
- Has anyone seen the Page Park update? The project by Sugar Fox Art is 8 feet wide.
- Tree Carving: The tree needs to be cut down to 13 feet for this artist to work with. Greg is meeting with Ray Rogozinski, Public Works Director, tomorrow, and will find out who pays the cost of the trim.

VI. BMS Theater Task Force Update

All officers for the non-profit have been identified and will work along with the Supervisor with the Arts & Culture Commission. They will be independent from the City.

They can assist with more expensive and involved projects and can help with fundraising. The non-profit actually already exists . The task force is being dissolved.

VII. Old Business

- Glass balls for NECM
 - They are to use a glassblower from Riverton who will make the glass and they would be hidden around town. He is providing 100 glass items. These will be placed in mesh bags with a card with Morgan’s information on it. If you find one you can go to the museum for free. An article will be in the Press which the commission will write, and it will be announced at the City Council meeting next month. There will be hints on website, etc. NECM is organizing this and the City Arts & Culture Commission is helping to fund it and providing exposure.
- Greg reported that lot#4 of Centre Sq. is not being sold. That will be the location of the Farmers Market in future. This might be a space for the locks.

VIII. New Business

- April spoke about the little free libraries in Bristol of which there is at least 3. She suggested there could be another one with bi-lingual children’s books so parents could read to their children. This would only take a small amount of funds and these books could also be added to the current little libraries. Lindsay said they could speak to the 2 public libraries about this idea and ask that they put aside relevant books and ask them questions.

- Brief discussion of pond sculpture.

X. Adjournment

Andrea Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., seconded by April Dews.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary

