



**City Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 6:30 pm
Executive Meeting Room, City Hall, 111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

ATTENDEES: Lindsay Vigue, Kim Villanti, Juliet Norton, Sam Cloutier,
Andrea Adams, Mark Walerysiak

ABSENT: Bill Stortz

COUNCIL LIAISON: Greg Hahn

STAFF: Patty Tomascak, Lindsey Rivers

GUESTS: Louise DeMars, April Dews

I. The City Arts & Culture Commission was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Lindsay Vigue.

II. Public Participation

- Patty Tomascak, Director of the Bristol Senior Center, spoke about the summer concert series. She spoke about doing a concert at the Senior Center. They thought that a Sunday evening would be a good time from 4-6 p.m. There would be food and food trucks as well. The dollar amount they think would be at the high end about \$2,000 or perhaps \$1,500. They would like to have 2 concerts – one in June and one in August. She will present this to her commission tomorrow.

For the last 2 years that have done an art show in June at the Center. The show ran from Friday through Saturday. They are doing it this year on a weekend and would like to do it the same time as the first concert. The art show would be in the gym. For the second concert, they can talk about a way to bring art into it. \$3,000 should cover both. She is trying to get outside agencies to help with it (monetarily).

There would be a rain date – potentially on a Monday night or they could move into the dining room but it would not be the same.

Patty also said that her seniors want to paint a mural on one of the walls at the center. They would need some assistance on this – some local artists may be able to help. This could be done in the evening.

- Lindsey Rivers, Public Works Analyst, said that the Public Works and Parks Department are planning to do a public art project where they will be making birdhouses and putting them up in the parks around town. They will be using recyclable materials from the transfer station (wood pallets) and they will be done by children. They will be done inside or outside at Rockwell Park. The event will be on May 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Lindsey would like to request assistance in supplying the paint and the brushes, etc. and refreshments for the event. She needs to obtain a dollar value. Ginger Grant will be helping and has been asked to come up with a budget figure for the paint. They plan on doing this every year. If they have enough of the birdhouses they may even be able to sell some. Lindsey will get the figures for the Commission's next meeting.

- Kim Villanti reported that a request has been received from Josh Medeiros, Director of Parks & Rec, to help with painting of the turtle at the Federal Hill green. Kim will follow-up and ask him exactly what he needs for this (e.g., \$ or artist & design). Greg mentioned that they could reach out to high school students for assistance to help with this project instead of hiring a professional. We could supply the paint and supplies.

III. Approval of Minutes

Kim Villanti made a motion, seconded by Andrea Adams, to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of October 17, 2018, November 14, 2018, January 16, 2019, the special mural sub-committee meeting of January 29, 2019, and the special meeting of March 6, 2019. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

Samantha Cloutier made a motion to proceed to item X., seconded by Andrea Adams. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

X. Discussion of Farmers Market live music

Dawn Nielsen had reported that the budget for the Farmers' Market for music is \$250 per group. The suggestion is for April Dews to arrange for the music for the Farmers' Markets.

April is a musician and has a degree in performance. She has a lot of music contacts. She has been in contact with 11 groups but they have questions.

- Would there be a stage or platform? There is a concern about their instruments being on the blacktop.
 - One alternative was suggested: one band has their own carpet and April is proposing they purchase a carpet to roll out every weekend.
 - She is securing a well-known band for the last Farmers' Market and asked could they rent the stage for that one.
- Is there a sound system? Some of the musicians have their own. They know that there is a generator. It is mainly groups who have their own sound system but some smaller groups do not. Greg commented that since it is a Farmers' Market that the farmers need to be able to talk to their customers and some of the bands can be loud and they should not play too loud. They do not have to bring the big sound systems as that would be too loud for the market.
- April asked about a liability waiver.
- Will there be a representative there every weekend to plug in, etc. – she was told a rep from the Commission would be there (by Dawn Nielsen).

Lindsay Vigue reviewed the compensation. It will be \$100 for one person and \$50 for each additional person. The stipend would be up to \$250 max.

If there is an acoustic group – they can be placed in the center of the market.

April discussed a variety of groups in her list. Other suggestions and comments were given. She also asked about the last one – on November 23. She will not book this one yet.

Louise DeMars said that Home Depot had donated a rug for a flatbed truck and it was 15' x 30' and that could be borrowed. She suggested the Commission ask for a flatbed truck and there are a number of companies which may be asked. These would be like the ones used in the Mum Parade.

IV. Discussion of Mike Reiss event and best ways to market

This will take place on May 23rd at 7 p.m. at the library. The library will do all the set-up and the breakdown. The room will hold 350 people. There will be an event-rite page but it will be a free event. People can also contact the library to register. Kim has created the poster. Lindsay has also spoken to J.R. at Main Street Pint & Plate about the refreshments. Mike can speak, sell his books, then after go to Pint & Plate for refreshments.

Lindsay said she would like to find a life-size cutout of the Simpson family to advertise the event and so people can take pictures with it. The cost is about \$100.

Kim Villanti made a motion to spend up to \$125 for the purchase of the cutout for this event. Samantha Cloutier seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Besides the library and social media the Commission can have the Bristol Press do a story – they have already been in contact. Samantha will contact Harvest Bakery about the refreshments for the talk.

V. CACC request form (Andy and Kim)

Kim and Andy have created the request form. Any request of the Commission should fall under one of the umbrellas. Two areas are open for a point person – "Outreach and Education" and "Music". This is just for a point person to field requests. Kim reviewed the form and that the event should fall under one of the categories listed that are part of the Commission's mission. Andy suggested that they add the date and location of the event and also if there is any other funding – will this take place without this funding? Kim said it could also be worded "are you seeking any other funding support?"

Andy also suggested that the form ask to indicate the intended makeup of the audience, size of audience and will there be tickets sold, as well as how this will impact the community. Kim added to ask "are you financially benefitting from the event?"

The form can be sent to the Mayor's office or Greg will ask if the City could set up an email for the Commission – or a mailbox.

VI. Discussion of sponsorship amount for Board of Education Art Show

Lindsay reported that she has not contacted the Board of Education yet. This item will be on the April agenda and is tabled until the next meeting. The event is in the summer – late June.

VII. Discussion of Duck Race

Lindsay has met with the Chamber of Commerce. The music is all set. For live art – they can put out a call to artists for someone who has experience with large-scale pieces and something interactive. The piece could move around the community. Lindsay will put a call out for someone with large-scale experience. \$2,000 was allocated and \$750 of that is for the band.

VIII. Crosswalk Art Update

Lindsay has spoken with the Mayor and she has spoken to Public Works and the Police Department. This has been forwarded to the Police Commission. The City Arts & Culture Commission should have a rep go to the meeting once we learn when that is. They will be given material from the Mayor which Lindsay gave to her.

IX. Review Traffic Box Art Images

Samantha Cloutier has found images through the Bristol Historical Society and Uconn. All images are readily available. Additional images are available. The images were reviewed. Sam will send them to all members for a poll.

Then they can discuss the smaller images for the back of the traffic boxes. 5 or 6 would be needed for the back of each. Mark Walerysiak has some additional photos. Kim mentioned that the larger images should be simple – not busy. Any additional photos should be sent to Sam. She will send them all out and take an online poll next week.

XI. Old Business

There was no old business.

XII. New Business

- The Mayor has sent information to Lindsay – "Arts Hero in Your Community" from the State of Connecticut. It asks "Do you know a hero in the Arts?" You can submit a nomination. The Commission thought that they would like to submit Ginger Grant. You click on the site and answer questions. Lindsay will submit on behalf of the Commission.
- Juliet discussed an idea of sprucing up an area of Riverside Avenue with plantings. This is a gateway area. The owner of the land needs to be determined and then they would need to obtain permission.

XIII. Adjournment

Kim Villanti made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Samantha Cloutier. All present voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper
Recording Secretary