



**City Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 6:30 pm
City Hall Staff Lounge
111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

ATTENDEES: Kim Villanti, Andrea Adams, Samantha Buonafede,
Juliet Norton, Mark Walerysiak, April Dews
COUNCIL LIAISON: Greg Hahn
HONORARY: - -
ABSENT: Lindsay Vigue, Bill Stortz
GUESTS: Richard Theriault, Director, Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble
Lauren Bent, Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services

- I. Call to Order – Lauren Bent called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
- II. Public Participation

Rich Theriault, Musical Director of the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble, thanked the commission for their assistance.

- Rich provided status on his upcoming concert which will be on 6/27 at 4:00 pm. A press release was issued to the Bristol Press. There will be two soloists: Maria Salice and Blaise Tramazzo. They should be able to get the chairs that they need from Prospect Methodist Church. He thanked the Commission for the \$600 contribution.
- He is overseeing the Bristol Chorale right now and helping to find a concert venue for the Christmas concert. He is looking for a venue that is more acoustically compatible with their group. He is in touch with the high schools. St. Paul is the fall back if he can't get one other high school. The concert will be either 12/12 or 12/19. He is still waiting to hear from Mr. Sgro regarding Bristol Central. Sam will speak to him.

- III. Approval of Minutes

Samantha Buonafede made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2021, seconded by Andrea Adams. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

- IV. Arts & Culture Supervisor Introduction

Lauren introduced herself and filled in what she has been doing since she started her position, mostly meeting people and gathering information.

- V. Board/Commission Relationship to A & C Division

Lauren reviewed the draft Relationship Chart that Josh Medeiros created. Greg spoke about the non-profit: "The Bristol Arts & Culture Fund, Inc.". Samantha was elected this week as the treasurer. Funds will be used for specific projects and they will work with non-profits looking for grants and assisting the organizations with the fund-raising. He expanded on what type of assistance they will be doing. Currently there is a board of 5 – it may go to 9 eventually.

This will be an independent financial support for the Arts in Bristol. This is separate from the City. Lauren explained more about the structure and its relationship to the City. Discussion on how this commission will interact and work with the new non-profit followed.

Greg encouraged everyone to share the social media. This new organization will have their own social media.

VI. Financial Reports

The Commission budget will move to the Parks Department. Lauren will have a financial report each month. The past year's budget was reviewed. Let Lauren know if these reports are helpful.

VII. Project Updates

- PanAm contact for mural: Lauren is following up with them but is not having much luck. They wanted some more information on the project – not the design but just where it would be and what would be involved.
- MLK Mural Application: The organization CT Murals is picking 39 towns in Connecticut to assist with funding a mural. More information is at <https://www.ctmurals.com/mlkmurals>. There was discussion about if Bristol would like to participate in this project. Lauren is in touch with them and believes it is ongoing through the year. CT Murals has a pool of artists and we would pull from that pool. Greg mentioned that Bristol should have a location in mind before signing up.
- Wood Sculptor: There is not too much to update. We cannot pay from this year's budget – it would have to be next year's budget. The 100th Birthday of Memorial Boulevard is in October. He will do the work on that day so people can watch him work.
- Pool Sculpture: Greg reported that the pool sculpture will be unveiled on June 18th at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are still available.

VIII. Old Business

- Farmers Market Mural Unveiling: The mural on Centre Square will be unveiled on June 18th at 10 a.m.
- 100th Anniversary (Memorial Boulevard School): The MBS Anniversary is October 16th. This is a celebration of the school and the construction which was done at the school.
- Bilingual Rec n Reads: April has not yet done an article for the newspaper. Greg suggested that she contact Scott Rosado. She summarized the project she had in mind to bring Lauren up to date. She feels it is important that children with two languages are read to at home and this would allow the parents to have the books to read to them. Many of the parents in these families have limited English. If you are read to at home your literacy rates will be higher. Lauren said there were already a few little libraries built by the Parks & Rec Department and one is still available. They would set up an Amazon store so people in Bristol can order and send the books right to us. Lauren can set that up.

Lauren reviewed the Art in the Park program and the last week they are bringing a blank board for the public to use and at that concert the Rec n Read could be unveiled. April will give Lauren the book list she has. Upkeep was discussed. Julie suggested the location could be near a playground. April will put an article together and the commission will review it at the next meeting.

IX. New Business

- Social Media Overview: Lauren will be taking over the Social Media accounts and there will be an Instagram. Please send pictures to her. Start following and share.

There was no other new business.

X. Adjournment

Samantha Buonafede made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m., seconded by April Dews. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary