



**City Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 21, 2021, 6:30 pm
City Hall Staff Lounge
111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

ATTENDEES: Lindsay Vigue, Samantha Buonafede, Andrea Adams, April Dews, Kim Villanti, Julie Norton
COUNCIL LIAISON: Greg Hahn
HONORARY: - -
ABSENT: Mark Walerysiak
STAFF: Lauren Bent, Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services, City of Bristol
GUESTS: Diane Read, Bristol Chorale
Matt Conway, CT Murals

I. Call to Order – Lindsay Vigue called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Public Participation

Diane Read, Treasurer of the Bristol Chorale, reported that the chorale is starting their rehearsals in September. Rich Theriault is now the director until they find a replacement. They currently have 2 candidates. They are looking for event openings. Their first concert is in December with the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble and it is free with donations accepted. They are looking for new members of all ages (high school and above) and do not hold auditions. If you know of any event possibilities or members to refer, please have them contact Dawn Heller at hellerd2016@gmail.com. Diane can share their concert information when available and the Commission can share it on their Facebook page. They also have a scholarship program.

III. Approval of Minutes

Andrea Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2021, seconded by Samantha Buonafede. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

IV. Arts & Culture Supervisor Updates

- **PanAm Mural:** We have received approval from PanAm to do the mural on the railway underpass on Main St. Lauren introduced Matt Conway from RiseUP For Arts and CT Murals. Matt explained how CT Murals (a RiseUP For Arts project - <https://www.ctmurals.com/>) assists with public art projects. They can recommend an artist and work within the client’s timeframe. Their fee is 10%. They assist with DOT applications, etc. Mr. Conway answered the commissioner’s questions. He shared a video about the organization and showed what type of projects they have completed. He spoke about how they assist with murals. They have done a lot of vetting for the community and work with the strategy and also do public relations for the mural or public art project. They support fundraising strategies for future projects and they are a non-profit.
- **MLK Mural Application:** Matt Conway also has information on how this works. He suggested the commission may want to have a “mural steering committee” for this project to bring in other diverse elements of the community. He will provide Lindsay with the links for the commission’s reference.

Lauren reported that our application has been submitted. Matt suggested that the committee begin putting together the tasks that need to happen for this project starting at the next meeting.

Matt Conway excused himself from the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

- Account Carryover: The request to carryover funds to the new fiscal year will go to the Board of Finance in August.
- City beautification projects: Lauren showed the 2 examples for ideas of city beautification projects. These are good low-cost projects which can involve the community.
- Department art programming: Lauren reported that the Parks Department has a brochure coming out in August and Lauren is ramping up some arts programming. One is an organization called “Arts Venture” which will begin at the Carousel Museum in September (an after-school program for children-K-5). She described the various programs which will be highlighted in the brochure. Let her know if you have any ideas. She will share some relevant Parks Department programs on the Arts Commission Facebook page.
- Community Conversations: This program focuses on equity and inclusion and the Parks Department is working closely with the Mayor. It is taking place on August 4th at 5:30. There will be food trucks and other city stakeholders there to discuss what steps are being taken to promote an inclusive community.
- Financial Reports: Lauren will have a budget available at the next meeting. Currently there is \$15,000 approved for this year and hopefully another \$10,000 carryover will be approved by the Board of Finance.

V. Social Media Plan

Lauren will be taking over the City Arts & Culture social media (Facebook page). Please send your ideas to her. Send photos to her on Mondays if you see events from the weekend. Then on Wednesdays she hopes to share events that will take place on the upcoming weekend. We wish to promote more online sharing and need input.

VI. Old Business

- Lauren reported that the Amazon Store for the bi-lingual Rec N Read is up (Parks Department). This will be a community event at the concert on August 10th. She will begin to advertise this tomorrow. <https://www.amazon.com/shop/bristolparksrecreationyouthandcommunityservices>
- Historical Society: Lindsay reported that the frames have arrived from Dusty Dudes. Lindsay is finalizing this with the Historical Society. Someone is creating a map. All 16 frames are in the downtown area. They are looking at the end of August/beginning September for the launch.

VII. New Business

Andrea reported that the Art & Seek on Facebook is taking off and wondered if anyone was following this project. It is very popular now. This has been a great project which involved the community. April reported that The New England Carousel is having an internal scavenger hunt right now.

VIII. Adjournment

Samantha Buonafede made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m., seconded by Andrea Adams.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary