



**City Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 6:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers 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
ABSENT: Bill Stortz
GUESTS: Richard Theriault, Director, Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble
Morgan Urgo, Executive Director, The New England Carousel Museum
Lauren Bent
Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent, Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services
Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Erica Benoit, Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services

I. Call to Order – Lindsay Vigue called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Public Participation

Rich Theriault, Musical Director of the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble, reported that their group has 65 musicians. He brought the commission up to date on their needs and activities during this past year. They will do an ensemble concert at the end of May which will be on Nutmeg TV. There will be a pops concert with a full band at the Rockwell amphitheatre at the end of June on a Sunday afternoon from 4 – 6 pm. He reviewed his budget for this concert. He is requesting some funds from the commission to cover some of the costs totaling \$576.

John Deveau and Morgan Urgo from The New England Carousel Museum spoke about their Gala/Fundraiser. They would like to reach out to artists in the commission’s database and work with the commission and the new Arts Supervisor to promote arts in the community. They requested feedback from the commission. They can respond to director@thecarouselmuseum.org.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Upcoming Spring Projects:

- Centre Sq. Mural:
 - Greg Hahn summarized the request from Justin Malley. The cost of the project is over \$14,000. They are asking for \$7400. An artist has been contracted. This project will require a lot of prep work. Discussion.

- Main Street Bridge:
 - Lindsay reported that they have received preliminary approval to paint the bridge pending approval of the subject to be painted. The commission needs to give the owner an idea of what will be painted and needs to create a form for designs to be submitted to the commission for consideration.
- Art & Seek (Globe Project):
 - Morgan provided an update on behalf of the Museum Directors Collaborative. She distributed samples showing how the glass would be packaged. There will be a Facebook page and the first rollout would be around Memorial Day, then 20 each month via clues on the Facebook page.

V. Meet and Greet – Arts & Culture Supervisor finalist

The meeting was turned over to Dr. Joshua Medeiros. He spoke about the grand opening of the Memorial Boulevard Intra-district Arts Magnet School this year, Page Park Pool and other activities happening this year. The Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services has created an Arts & Culture Division within their department and will hire an Arts & Culture Supervisor. He provided a description of the position and duties. He reviewed the application process and the requirements. Initial interviews were held in March. Dr. Medeiros described the second round interview process. Lauren Bent came forth as the finalist for this position.

Lauren introduced herself and then opened the meeting up to questions and comments. Later in this meeting she will distribute a short survey. Lauren spoke about herself and her experience. She is originally from Connecticut and worked in the South Windsor Parks System. She continued her formal education and is now finishing her Masters in Public Administration. She expanded on her conference and legislative experience.

Lauren shared a PowerPoint presentation which she gave during her second interview. Commission members asked questions and offered suggestions.

Lindsay Vigue and Joshua Medeiros thanked Lauren and Josh said he will be reaching out to her later this week.

VI. Old Business – There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business

- Bristol Historical Society 50th Anniversary
 - Lindsay was asked to work with this project. She was inspired by something she saw in Provincetown – interactive wooden frames. She described it and presented her idea which was well received. She has researched the costs from local woodworkers. One quote was approximately \$1750 for 15 frames with plexiglass. There is a 5-week leadtime.
- Funding Requests:
 - Centre Sq. Mural: \$7,400
 - BHS Project: \$1,768
 - Bristol Brass & Wind: \$ 576

- Main Street Bridge:
 - Main Street is a local road and we were given permission. The King Street bridge is a State road and the commission does not have the availability right now. There are funds left after the above requests what would be available for the Main St. Bridge. Our balance after the prior requests would be \$15,124.
 - Lindsay explained the process for doing the Main Street bridge and at this time we do not have an exact cost but we should have enough in the budget to cover it. The commission would have to let the railroad company know exactly what they will be doing and obtain their approval. Once a form is established, it can be sent out to art forums for their concept design submissions, quotations and information regarding the prep work involved.
- Mayor Zoppo Sassu spoke about what other towns are doing with the American Rescue Plan which cannot be folded into our budget. We will have some funds available to us from the American Rescue Plan in May. There may be a possibility that we may be able to use some of those funds for project based activities. “Economic Aid and Recovery” may include the Arts. Bristol should have some guidance on this plan soon.
- Centre Sq. Mural request

Andrea Adams made a motion to support the Centre Square mural for \$7400. Samantha Buonafede seconded the motion, the commission members voted in favor and the motion passed.

- BHS Public Arts Project – Wooden Frames

The Historical Society came up with 39 possible locations. There was discussion on how much the commission would commit to, which currently is estimated at 15. These would be better suited in walkable locations. The proposed locations can be reviewed and the budget allows for some additional frames. Discussion. Lindsay described the frame project – an historical view on one side (artwork or photo with plexiglass) and a clear glass that you can look through showing the current view next to it of where you are standing at the moment. [example below].



Samantha Buonafede made a motion to allocate up to \$2500 for the BHS Art Project. April Dews seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

- Main Street Bridge

The commission now needs to get back to the train company. First a submission form has to be created for the artists to remit their submissions for the concept and cost. The subject can be open ended as long as it has something to do with the location or with Bristol.

Kim Villanti excused herself at 8:20 p.m.

- Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble

Greg mentioned that this might be able to be funded through the American Rescue Funds because it would be Covid related.

Andrea Adams made a motion to support the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble concert in the amount of \$600. Samantha Buonafede seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Erica Benoit reported that the Parks Department will be looking to do their Art in the Park during the summer concert series this year which is scheduled on Tuesdays from June 22 to August 10 with main performance from 6:30 – 8 p.m. with opening acts so it may begin around 6 p.m. She is looking for the commission's physical and network support. She will send a schedule of potential ideas and requests that the commission consider them and see if there is anything they could build upon. They are looking for something which would be engaging for all ages while still being Covid-friendly.

Additional Old Business:

April has spoken to the librarians about the little free libraries and they do not typically have bi-lingual books in good condition that are for sale, but they will put together a list of recommended books which could be acquired. We should have this list available at the next commission meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Samantha Buonafede made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m., seconded by Andrea Adams. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary