



**City Arts & Culture Commission
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 6:30 pm
City Hall Staff Lounge
111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

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

- I. Call to Order – Lindsay Vigue called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
- II. Public Participation

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

- He spoke about their upcoming concert. They need chairs for the 50 musicians who are planning to play at this concert. They own around 35 chairs and need approximately 20 (portable folding chairs). The City Arts & Culture Commission members offered suggestions on obtaining the additional chairs needed.
- Rich is filling in as interim director at the Bristol Chorale as Ken Ferris has retired. They will be looking for a different venue than the one they have used in the past. They are looking into Central High School and St. Paul has been in touch to see if they will continue there. He is looking for assistance from Lauren as to a venue. Greg Hahn informed Rich that any request for a school facility goes through the Board of Education. Kathy Marshall added that the Chorale rehearsals begin September 13th at St. Andrews and anyone who wishes to sing can join. They should be at least 16 years of age (with permission).

- III. Approval of Minutes

Andrea Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 21, 2021, seconded by Juliet Norton. All present voted in favor – motion passed.

- IV. Centre Sq. Mural Update

There will be a meeting Monday at 11 a.m. at the site if you wish to join them. The draft imaging was discussed in general. The repair of the wall is currently being done.

- V. Main Street Bridge Mural Update

The owner needs to know the overall plan. The Mayor was sent images of the location showing where the mural would be. The Mayor is trying to contact the railroad to get the go-ahead.

VI. Art and Seek Project Update

This will begin Memorial Day weekend. The first 5 glass objects will go out with 25 to follow each month. There will be a Facebook site which will give clues on how to find one and what to do when you find it.

VII. BHS 50th Anniversary Public Arts Project Update

After reviewing images and locations there will be 16 frames. These will all be in the downtown area. There will be a map showing where to go to find them. An artist will be designing the map. Various locations were discussed. Each image will have the 50th anniversary logo on it. They will be unveiled at the end of July. The map will be available from the Historical Society website and can be downloaded so people can do a self-guided tour.

VIII. Old Business

- Federal Hill Turtles: The turtles have been painted by park staff (Erica and Sarah) in the winning designs that the commission judged last year. They needed special paint to hold up through time and weather and use. The names of the children who designed them are written on the turtle's legs.

Kim Villanti joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- Page Park Mural: This will be unveiled on June 18th at 5:00 p.m. at the fundraiser. Erica will send out invitations and Stephanie will be there ("Meet the Artist").

IX. New Business

Julie inquired about the Minerva statue and whether the commission could contribute funds. Lindsay said we do not have any funds left to assist with the restoration. The statue will be done for the opening of the school. If they have difficulty in their fund-raising they could come to us if they need some help. Greg said that organizations should come to the commission when they need assistance.

VIII. Old Business, continued

- Little Bi-Lingual Library: April reported she has a list of bi-lingual books. This was initially for the little outdoor libraries. She would like to see one which would just be bi-lingual books. She would like to propose the building of a mini bi-lingual library in a central location and advertising it. Lindsay reported that the Public Works department would be a good contact. The Diversity Council could help to promote and they could partner with us. April will do a proposal with all the details and needs and submit it to the Diversity Council. We can also reach out to the business community and individuals for assistance in funding the book purchases. Greg suggested writing an article for the Bristol Press and get quotes from Lindsay Vigue and the Mayor. Discussion. The commission can also work with Parks & Rec on this project.
- Memorial Boulevard School: Greg said the band director from Eastern High School (Ken Bagley) asked if there was a school or "fight song" for the Memorial Boulevard school that he could arrange so his band could play it for the anniversary celebration. He contacted the previous music director who believes there was such a tune but suggested they contact either Ruth Busse or Judy Blake but does not know how to contact them. Please contact Greg if you know how to contact them.
- Art in the Park: The Parks Department would like an arts activity at each concert. Julie had an idea of handprints. The idea was brought forward that handprints could decorate the little library and that could be located in Rockwell Park.

Bill Stortz excused himself at 7:30 p.m.

IX. New Business, continued

- Greg said that they need to vote on a Pride Day co-sponsor if they want to do that again. The flag-raising is schedule for June 8th. **April Dews made a motion to be co-sponsor of the flag-raising for Pride Day on June 8th. Julie Norton seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed.**
- Erica reported that the first Art in the Park would be on June 22nd and could revolve around Pride Month since it is in June.
- April would like to consider a project for next summer: “Art Basel Meets Bristol”. This would be downtown or on Memorial Boulevard and the road could be shut for the day. It would require a lot of planning. There would be multiple artists working on projects and also would involve the school system. All types of art would be represented including those in industry. There would also be food trucks, etc. Greg suggested this could be something to approach Lauren about and get the Parks & Rec Department involved. Hope Street would be a good location for this. Discussion.
- American Rescue Plan: Lindsay reported that we don’t have an update yet. Greg reported that the Council will have more information in the upcoming weeks. There will be a committee handling this.
- Social Media: Current social media accounts were discussed. April suggested we should talk about this for the new year and perhaps hire someone to update their social media for Facebook and Instagram. Greg has a person in mind. This will be discussed in June. Greg said this person could also attend our monthly meetings.

X. Adjournment

Andrea Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m., seconded by April Dews. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary