

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – Tuesday June 1, 2021

Via Microsoft Teams @ 6:30 pm

Present

Emily McIntosh, Damon Patnoe, Donna Hamre, Joshua Hamre, Emily Clifford, Jennefer Ryan, Kelly Hemmeler, Sam Nolan, Jason Neely, Elizabeth Szewczyk

Chairperson's Remarks

None at this time

Staff Liaison

Linda Van Steele would like the date for the next meetings to be included in the meeting minutes.

The display case has been hung and the student artwork is currently on display. The balance of the ECAC take and make crafts will be used for the Summer crafts with credit being given to ECAC. There have been a total of 1075 kits handed out so far.

Upcoming library concerts will be held in-person outdoors. June 17th Music Duo "Are We There Yet?: Songs of American Transportation" and August 4th "Horizon Blue".

Elizabeth Szewczyk joined us to speak about her Mini Grant Application. Beside being a writer, she was a Reading Specialist, she explained the children in grades K-2 need exposure to a lot of books. Elizabeth is a member of the First Readers program. The First Reader Ceremonies take place in November, March and June each year. Children are awarded with a t-shirt, a certificate, a medal, a pencil and a book. The money for the books is typically raised through fundraisers for the organization. The organization is running very low on getting books. They want to create a bag of books for the children to start their home library.

Elizabeth set a goal this year as the Poet Laureate to create children's books. She had written 6 poems that will be illustrated and turned into individual books. The first book "All aboard the Potty Train: won the mom's choice award. Her books are aimed at K-3rd grade age children. Elizabeth would like to donate 2 books to each child at the ceremonies. Her donation is contingent on receiving the ECAC grant. She has been asked to be a keynote speaker and hand out autographed books to the children.

Her mini grant request is estimating 50 children at the November ceremony. 1 book x 50 would equal \$367.00. For 2 books her total is \$734.00. Her mini grant application is requesting \$500.00. The balance would be \$234 which she would have from the sales of her other books. She would have to apply for the grant again for each ceremony.

If the number of children at the ceremony is 100, she would only give 1 book per child. She has 3 new books currently being published. "My Sister is an Alien" "Monster Dreams" and An ABC Books about animals and insects. Her goal is to have 1 girl book and 1 boy book to each child and the alphabet book to all. The boy book "Monster Dreams" is also a multi-cultural book. The books sell for \$11.99 each, her price from the publisher will be around \$6.00 including shipping.

Jennefer shared that last week's First Reader's ceremony certified 350 children. Elizabeth will find out how many children will be honored at the ceremony 2-3 weeks prior to the ceremony and will be able to order extra books if necessary.

The First Ready organization has not seen the books that Elizabeth is looking to donate yet because they are still being published.

There was concern that the books would not be appropriate content for the first readers, Elizabeth is confident that the material is age appropriate and the Font is very large.

Emily M. assured Elizabeth that she would contact her this evening following our meeting with the board's decision.

The ECAC board members shared concerns about the content not being appropriate for the reading levels and discussed how we can otherwise support the Poet Laureate.

We could sponsor Author visits at the schools

The Enfield Public Library Community Room will be closed through August but following that, the Friends of the Library can host an Author presentation.

Elizabeth already has a display set up at the Enfield Public Library.

We could sponsor her in the Gazebo at the town green for a reading.

Elizabeth is the Poet Laureate for the Town of Enfield, not just for ECAC, we would like to point her towards different events and organizations that she could reach out to.

Family Day in September, we could have her speak from the Gazebo and have a meet the author table where she can give books out. This would warm her up for the Torchlight Parade in December.

We can give \$500 to the First Readers Program and set Elizabeth up for another \$500 to get the books for Family Day.

We can set her up with a table near the sidewalk chalk contest. She can bring her adult books as well and promote her entire catalog at the table. She can sign books and hand out the 50

books. Jennefer will arrange for her to speak for 10-15 minutes from the gazebo. She can read a book and talk about her works.

Jennefer will talk to Charlotte about contact information for the First Readers donation. Emily M made a motion for \$500.00 to First Readers for a bundle of books for the November ceremony. Josh 2nd, unanimous vote in favor.

A motion was made for a Vote to set Elizabeth up with ECAC at Family Day. Have her speak/read from the gazebo \$500.00 to buy books to be given away at Family Day. This money is to go towards books that will be handed out at Family Day, as with our Mini-grants, a copy of the invoice will be required. The leftover books that are not handed out will remain with ECAC and will be distributed to Enfield Schools. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Kelly added that the Farmers Market starts this week and that vendors are free. Elizabeth can have a booth at the Farmers Market to market her books.

New Business

Board nominations for the 2021/2022 year.

Secretary: Emily M. nominated Donna Hamre, Damon 2nd. Vote was unanimous.

It was discussed that removal of treasurer would require us to re-write the bylaws. It was originally put into the bylaws in preparation of the application for 501c3 status.

Treasurer: Sam Nolan was nominated as treasurer and declined. Damon was nominated. All voted in favor of Damon Patnoe as treasurer.

Chairman: Emily Clifford was nominated and declined. Emily McIntosh agreed to stay on as Chairman as long as everybody pitched in to the events. Prior to scheduling any events, board members will check their calendars to be sure we have enough ECAC Members present at the events.

Jennefer Ryan asked to be more involved in the Social Media. Donna will add her as Admin to the Facebook page.

Emily Clifford nominated Emily McIntosh as Chairman, Josh 2nd. All voted in favor of Emily M.

Vice-Chairperson:

Josh nominated Emily Clifford, Emily M 2nd. All voted in favor.

Old Business

We are in a contract with Paul Bisaccia for 2 more virtual concerts. We can decide to set up a Spring 2022 live concert.

Miscellaneous

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7th. We voted to push the meeting to the 2nd Tuesday due to attendance conflicts. The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 6:30. Emily will set up zoom meetings for the next year and send to Donna for the minutes.

We have already voted on chalk and gift cards for Family Day and it has been added into the budget.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14th at 6:30 via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary