

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Via Zoom 6:30 pm

Present

Emily McIntosh, Damon Patnoe, Donna Hamre, Jennefer Ryan, Emily Clifford, Renee Poreda, Jason Neely, Emma Borkowski, John Santanella

Meeting started at 6:33pm

Approval of prior minutes: Damon made a motion to accept the minutes, Jennefer 2nd the motion. Minutes accepted.

Chairperson's Remarks

Welcome to John Santanella as our new Town Council Liaison.

The Torchlight Parade was a great turn out, many ECAC members in attendance.

The Supporting Arts Grant of \$1000 award received to replace Audio Visual equipment at the Enfield Senior Center.

Staff Liaison Remarks

Jason is working on quotes for the repair for the AV Equipment at the Senior Center, the Grant can go towards the replacement.

Russ Sulk from OHP had mentioned a Performing Arts Museum Project in town. 100 High St would be a good location for this type of exhibit. No formal request has been received.

The Festival of Trees will be held at the library. With the uptick of COVID cases, Jason is hesitant to offer refreshments at the event due to the need to remove masks to eat.

Elizabeth Szewczyk has a new children's book out and wants to have an event at the library in March. Jason wants to know if ECAC wants to sponsor the event.

New Business

Emma Borkowski, a student from EHS Community Action Learning class joined us to share their project proposal that the class is working on. Their project: Building Book Beginnings will raise money to donate to Elementary school kids. They want to promote the love for reading. The class will be promoting their project on social media and through other fundraisers to raise money for the project. They will be working with the library to choose what books to purchase. The elementary school teachers are assisting with a list of students who will receive a book based on need. The project goal end date is January 25th which is the end of the semester. The final list from the schools will be received within the next 2 weeks to order the books through Barnes and Noble to be sure they come in before January 25th. Mr. Allegro's class worked on filling out the mini grant proposal.

ECAC next meeting will be the 1st Tuesday in January, we will review the mini grant proposal at that time. The email addresses for ECAC, Emily and Jason were shared with Emma for the submission.

The Poet Laureate appointment renewal is coming up. Jennefer will do a press release and post on social media. The application process is open now and we will be voting in the June meeting. ECAC will be presenting in the Fall to the Town Council the appointment of the Poet Laureate.

The Zoom account renewal is coming up as well. Jason will work on that.

The 2022-2023 meeting dates have been submitted to the Deputy Town Clerk. We will continue meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month with the exception of the September meeting where we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday. The board typically doesn't meet in July or August and have not met in person since COVID shut us down. We may go back to in-person meetings in the future but it was agreed that the meetings via Zoom are preferred by members at this time.

Old Business

The mini grant for the Juneteenth event from the Ujima African American Alliance has been sent to Renee and John for their information and review. Jason met with the group, they are a non-profit organization and have already reserved the Town Green through buildings and grounds. Damon 1st, Emily C. 2nd. All voted in favor of granting \$500 for the event.

The Festival of Trees event will be held on Thursday, Dec 16th. We discussed preparing grab and go individual cookie packages. Emily will check at Restaurant Depot. Jen suggested a candy cane give away. Our previously approved budget for this event is \$250.

An idea for next year is to have ECAC Logo cookies for the event. Jason reviewed the Festival of Trees event with John and Renee. It is a collection of unique tree designs donated by the community, an opportunity to be creative and artistic. OHP may come sing at the event. It is an annual Holiday get together.

We reviewed the Poet Laureate book release event and the \$500 mini grant that was awarded to her to hand out her books on the Town Green. She would like to hand out her books at the library event. The purpose of the Poet Laureate position is to create poems for specific events within town. For her March Library event being held during the day, ECAC members may not be able to be in attendance. ECAC will follow up for the invoices to wrap up the mini grant process. Any extra books not handed out can be donated to KITE's Book Buddies program where the Fire Fighters are paired with kindergarten students to hand out books.

The next Paul Bisaccia concert will be held via Zoom on Sunday, December 12th. This is our final contracted virtual show. Josh will run the sound check with Paul, Emily will be the back-up on Zoom for the event.

Donna attended the Enfield Pride Potluck event on 11/20/21. The planning for a Town Wide event on the Green in June has been put on hold at this time as the group tries to establish a presence in town with smaller events. Renee's daughter is in the GSA at EHS as well and has

spoken to Ms. April who is leading the group about the pride meetings. The next Pride event will be held in March 2022, Donna will share the Pride Events on the ECAC Facebook page.

Emily has reached out to some local businesses about hosting the local Artists concert series. Sage King is interested in doing some of these events. The information was shared with John for any groups that he knows of who are looking for live music.

John mentioned the \$200,000 resolution to fund a Band Shell on the Town Green and asked if ECAC has been in any discussions about the Band Shell. It will be a good location for Plays on the Green or Concert Series. Emily responded that the commission would not take on the logistics of it but we could facilitate promoting through the performers. John will get back to us about when it will be ready. John thinks that Programming slots could be arranged for our use. The band shell could also be used for our Movies in the Park events.

We reviewed the proposed position of OHP Liaison. In the town Charter, if the town gives more than \$5000 to an organization, the commission must have representation on the board. To create the OHP position on the ECAC board would allow us to receive OHP events and renovations updates. The position would be a non-voting member. We would have to go to the Town Council to create this position. Maya Matthews would be the OHP member. Renee Poreda is pending appointment as a Board Member to fill our vacant position on ECAC board. Jason will talk to the managers office to see if this has to go to the Town Council.

Miscellaneous:

Jennefer has been doing a great job with Facebook, there have been a lot more likes on Facebook. For the Boosts invoice, Jen will need to be set up as a vendor, she will send her name and address to Linda Van Steele and copy Jason to have her added so she can submit her receipts for reimbursement.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 6:30 via Zoom.
Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary