

ENFIELD CULTURE & ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2022
Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

In person - Jason Neely, Emily Clifford, Joyce Bolanos, Donna Hamre, Joshua Hamre, Christine Tetreault, Amy Whitbro, Chris Gann, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

October minutes were accepted as updated

Special Guests

Amy Whitbro joined us to speak about the Heritage Fair scheduled for February 25, 2023 at JFK Middle School. It is a day long festival that celebrates Enfield's diversity. The event will feature ethnic foods, activities and entertainment local to Enfield. A Brochure was shared with a previous program showing the variety of events. The flyer has a QR code that links to KITE's website for applications for exhibitor sign ups. The kitchen will be open for food vendors to provide small samples. Amy is asking for ECAC financial support towards entertainment. The festival will also be funded by the school budget as well as KITE's funding. Expenses include rental of tables and chairs, sound systems, supplies and materials as well as a stipend for local groups participating. Jason offered our ECAC sound equipment for use. Joshua asked how many different sound systems they set up. Amy explained that the Gym area is where the primary sound system is set up. In the past they have had dance performances, Native American teepee, they use the sound system for speakers and introductions. Asian performance arts want to be in the auditorium. They will also have a small sound system in the cafeteria for the announcements. The screens throughout the building will be used to broadcast digital program. They will be using the large spaces on both sides of the gym plus space in cafeteria for additional displays. Question asked about vendors applying for mini grants to assist with performance or supplies. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Monday December 19, 2022 at 5:30pm at the JFK library, attendees can enter through the right-side door at the library.

Christine Tetreault joined us to speak about Art work collections display. She spoke about her husband's art. "Don't Miss Chris". She has ideas for murals, crosswalks, street art statues (possible Eagle symbol) highlighting many local artists. ECAC has a desire to see more art in different ways. Butterfly wings, art in public parks, rotating art gallery are all conversations for upcoming ECAC projects. There have been suggestions for graffiti walls and painted electrical utility boxes.

Chris Gan from Rise-up who works with Matt Conway from CT Murals joined us to speak about murals and brought examples of his portfolios. Chris is a local artist in Enfield and has accounts on Facebook and Instagram. He does prep work with other artists at CT Murals. His goal is to find people who are working in the Arts and get involved with the community. We spoke about

projects in the community. Enfield Produce store and the building visible from the train platform. Chris shared his Welcome to Enfield sign sketches. He is willing to work with schools and young artists who want to get involved. Murals are a collaborative project that people can work together on. Emily asked about a timeline. Chris explained that under 40-50 degrees painting is difficult. Paints don't react well in the cold plus the moisture in the air. After a sketch is done, it takes 2-3 weeks to complete. If the mural is the interior of a building it takes about 2 weeks. Every project is different. March – April is the average time to begin exterior murals. Another possibility is a live painting at an event. He has done events where he does a live painting during the event then raffles the canvas off at the end of the event. For theme ideas, Joyce suggested visiting the Enfield Historical Museum with the idea of the mural spanning through time in Enfield History.

We spoke about graffiti concerns on the murals. Chris explained that it is easy to touch up and can be repaired. There is also a silicone clear coat that can be applied to the mural. It will protect the mural from UV rays and becomes a paint resistant barrier to be easily washed off. This treatment is expensive and costs \$50-\$60 per gallon. In his experience graffiti on murals is not that common, he has been painting murals since the early 2000's and it has not been a big concern.

Chairperson's remarks

The Torchlight Parade tree lighting event was great

Treasurer's Report

We have \$11,283 in our account currently

Staff Liaison's Remarks

Art kits have been purchased for the library. \$1000 worth of art supplies including Lino cutting, water color, print making, wood burning, quilting, etc. The cost covers the base set of the kits. It does not cover the consumables and replenishment of supplies. Patrons will be charged a small fee to cover the cost of the supplies used. Watercolor sets and broken kits will need to be replaced and will be an ECAC funding opportunity. The goal is to roll out the kits availability in early 2023.

Old Business

Tree lighting events at the Torchlight Parade included the parade, kids singing and the tree lighting. In speaking with Mary Keller, ECAC can be more hands on with the promotion for next year by creating Facebook events. We discussed concerns including bathroom access. Ellen, Town Manager suggested to start event earlier closer to 4:00-4:30. Possibly a reverse parade to begin earlier in the day.

The event needs more publicity for the flyer. Ideas included Santa could come earlier. The feedback from Ellen is that the Fire Department Chiefs flip coins because they don't want to do it. There are so many good things in the community to tweak or enhance to make better.

The Band Shell. Higgins Park pool would have had bathrooms, that is now off the table. The town is considering pre-fab bathrooms which would be handicap accessible. Stephanie is charting the farmer markets and summer concerts. The town is considering a possible after

work farmers market starting at 3:00-4:00 rather than Sundays. The Indoor Farmers market at the Enfield Square featuring crafter's artisans has been successful, the event has 2 Sundays left.

New Business

Enfield Pride event is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2023 on the Town Green. There will be food trucks, vendors, music, live performances. A mini grant application may be submitted for support for this event.

Ujima events pending for Juneteenth, date TBD

ECAC will be meeting over the summer.

February 16, 2023 there will be a performer showcase in Manchester. Jason had packets printed from previous showcases. We will be creating a subcommittee for the band shell scheduling and selecting of performances. The Town Managers office will cover the first show. This is a great opportunity to seek out grants through the Town managers office. The band shell is coming by April 2023 but hit a struggle with materials and supply issues. The PO has been issued; pricing needs to be accepted by the finance committee. Tabling the conversation until next month when all commission members can be present.

Art gallery installations for public buildings. We would need to measure the Town Hall. 1st floor will be the priority, 2nd floor, brick stair wells. Call out to artists, will need to work out details.

Received email from Ujima history project exploring Enfield's local history. Looking for funding support. The library has digitized Historic newspapers; library can support interns. Invite them to come to a future meeting to discuss.

Town website will need an events calendar. Stephanie is working on this long-term project.

Lauren from Enfield Produce questioned how do they find out about the mural project. they cannot advertise in the mural. The mural cannot have Enfield Produce included in the art design.

The commission voted to fund the \$500 for the initial sketches for Mr. Salas's wall. All voted in favor, Motion passed. The commission voted to fund the \$500 for the initial sketches for Enfield Produce, all voted in favor, Motion passed.

Contact will be made with Chris to let him know to move forward conceptual designs to move forward with the projects.

Board of Education Liaison Remarks

Joshua attended Enfield Community Chorus over the week. The Community Chorus has been around for 40 years. The Enfield Brass Band performed at United Congregational Church. Also highlighted in the remarks were Enfield High School Student musicians who perform at the Women's Club art show.

Riley's Dance studio held their recital at Enfield High school. They could be a consideration for Dance Demonstrations at events.

Opera House Players is partnering with Enfield Loaves and Fishes for a fundraiser: Spotlight Talent Variety Show this weekend.

There are many marketing opportunities for ECAC.

There should be coordinating to avoid splitting audiences, market events to better advertise.

Ellen suggested banding together to put in a grant for capacity building for all shared community events by using ARPA funds.

Tina, the BOE Chair invited ECAC to attend a BOE Board meeting to present our Commission and speak about upcoming events.

Possible future events: Bottle top murals, envelope exchanges featuring positive affirmations. Suggestion was made to collaborate with Enfield PTO's

Miscellaneous

\$600 promotional items previous vote, all was not spent and will be returned to the budget following receipts being submitted.

ECAC currently has 2 open board vacancies. Emily wants to post on our Facebook page to spread the word. Ellen said that minority parties need to be represented on the town boards and commissions. Considering doing a press release. Ellen will check on any open applications pending.

Public Access on Cox can be used to advertise upcoming events. We discussed creating a list of community organizations that support cultural and community events and coming up with a community event calendar.

Next Event: Festival of Trees | Thursday, December 15, 2022 | 6:30 p.m. | Enfield Public Library

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Town Hall | Scitico Room

Adjournment

8:36pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Hamre | Secretary