

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
January 2, 2024, 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

Roll Call

Jason Neeley, Emily Clifford, Donna Hamre, Joyce Bolanos, Debbie Kruzel, Dan Keating, Nzima Hutchings, Marc Warnock, Alex Ranniello. Not Present: Steph MacGillivray

Acceptance of Minutes

December was not an official meeting due to no quorum. The abbreviated minutes were approved.

Special Guests

Marc from Enfield Public Access TV joined us to talk about a project proposal. Marc produces a show on Public Access where he promotes local bands by recording them in the studio. Marc is also the Vice-President for Enfield Safe Harbor for the Homeless and in trying to think of a way to promote the non-profit groups in town: Enfield Loaves and Fishes, The Enfield Food Shelf, and Safe Harbor for the Homeless he is proposing an Equilibrium Music Fest to Stomp Out Hunger. The event would be held in May 2024 at the Enfield Band Shell from 12pm-9pm. It would feature 8 local bands and a headliner. Each band would perform a 45-minute set and in between each band on the Main Stage, there could be a side acoustic tent next to the main stage where small acts could play 15 min sets. That would be an option for an Open Mic or the High School bands.

We discussed ticket pricing of \$10 per person and a donation of canned goods for the Enfield Food Shelf.

Non-Profit vendors could set up in the upper parking lot and we could bring in food trucks and possibly Powder Hollow Brewery. Debi can help with sharing the Food Truck vendor information. We could invite CT Media TV and Radio stations (Channel 3) for media coverage and the concert could be live streamed on Public Access. Commission members: Debi, Dan, Nzima, Joyce, and community member Alex will work with Marc. Prior to moving forward the group would need to set a budget for how much the event would cost.

Questions raised: What is the cost of having Enfield Police Department at the event for security? How to ensure everyone has a ticket on the Town Green? We discussed a donation option rather than per person tickets. Donation announcements could be made in between bands, QR codes could be created and advertised throughout the event. There could be a ticketed VIP area similar to the 4th of July Festival.

ECAC can support programming. A suggestion was made to look for bands to volunteer their time for the mission. We can also expand the event to add an Art Walk with Artist vendors.

We will revisit this project at our February meeting.

Alex Ranniello joined us to speak about a project of painting electrical boxes throughout town. He has recently completed a project in New Britain. His project would look at beautifying corners, researching the local area near the electric boxes, and incorporating what is nearby into the design. He would work with local schools and include students in the painting and design of the boxes near the schools as well as involve the local community.

It takes a week or so to complete each box. Eversource owns the boxes, Alex will inquire whether permits were required. Alex suggested an artist stipend of \$500 per box but the fee could vary \$200-\$300. We could look at local businesses, organizations, or residents to sponsor a box by holding an "Adopt a box" campaign.

Following the completion of the boxes we could make maps of the completed boxes throughout town to engage the community in a scavenger hunt of sorts. We discussed painting 2-3 per year with a theme. We could stagger box debuts throughout the year.

We will revisit this project at our February meeting.

It was also suggested to install a Free Library box near the bandshell.

Chairperson's Remarks

The rescheduled Torchlight Parade went well. Nzima performed an original poem.

The Festival of Trees opening reception was great.

The ECAC Events calendar for January is now online.

Treasurer's Report

The current account balance is \$11936. There are no pending charges.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

will be covered in the Concert Series discussion.

TC Liaison's Remarks

none present.

BOE Liaison's Remarks

none present.

Old Business

We have selected February 20th as the date for ECAC to present to the Town Council as special guests to discuss ECAC's past and future plans. All commission members should add photos into the group chat for Donna to incorporate into the slide show. Emily will contact Cheryl to confirm our attendance on Feb 20th.

Nzima held a book signing and poetry reading at Barnes and Noble.

We would like to continue Open Mic Night at the Enfield Public Library, the first Wednesday of each month from 6-8pm through 2024. The attendance at the event has continued to grow and be consistent. A motion was made by Donna, 2nd by Debi and all voted in favor.

A Summer Concert meeting will be held on January 11 at 11:30am. Debi and Emily will attend the meeting to learn more about the Town Council/Town Manager's involvement in this year's concert series and the budget. Jason shared our budget draft with the Town Manager. He does not see the concert series being run out of the Town Manager's office this year.

The ECAC Budget planning will wait until our February meeting when we have more information about the Summer Concert series budget.

Joyce will speak about Art Policies in March.

New Business

Nzima as the Poet Laureate will be holding book signings and poetry readings at 3 locations: Asnuntuck Community College, Enfield Public Library and at the Historical Society. She is applying for the Poet Laureate funds totaling \$500.00. A motion was made by Joyce and 2nd by Debi. All voted in favor of releasing the funds.

Nzima is also planning on starting a writing series on Fridays at Barnes and Noble.

Nzima is considering starting a poetry club/workshop focusing on the age range of 17yr-30yr old. We will table this item until next month for further thought.

Gillian Elder is creating a Finding CT website and will join us to share her ideas at a future meeting.

We are considering holding a tree making event at the library next November to create a creative space for the creation of trees by community members for the festival. The created trees will remain at the library on display for the Festival of Trees.

Joyce suggested that we “Light Up the Town” We will invite area business to put up lights, similar to Hannoush Jewelers property on Elm St., next Holiday season. We will discuss more in October.

February is Black History Month; we will feature Cultural Authors on our Facebook page throughout the month.

Poetry in Enfield will be held at EHS auditorium on January 11th at 6:30pm. Emily and Nzima will participate as judges for the event.

Barbara Lawrence contacted ECAC regarding her mission to empower creatives by bringing their visions to life and how she can support. She will be joining us as a special guest in February. We discussed connecting her with Marc for a Public Access Show.

Miscellaneous

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm