

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

Roll Call

Emily Clifford, Donna Hamre, Joyce Bolanos, Dan Keating, Barbara Lawrence

Acceptance of Minutes

Dan made a motion to accept minutes, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor

Special Guests

Barbara Lawrence joined us to speak about her new company "Soul Sifter". She is interested in supporting and promoting local artists. Barbara has an Arts background and is in the process of creating a website to promote her business. She is planning to create a free business directory. She has plans to gain sponsors, sell tickets, and to charge vendor fees for events to support the events. Barbara is looking to connect with ECAC to network for locations/venues to hold artist events. She is looking into the Library community room, Powder Hollow Brewery, Bigelow Commons and other locations for small gatherings. . Barbara will have an events calendar that could link to our events if we are interested. She will have links for contacts and volunteers.

She is interested in featuring young artists. She would like to do spoken word, poetry slams and community challenges. She would like to create an Arts Center in Enfield like the Windsor Arts Center. She is looking to partner with ECAC for hosting events at the library. She is also interested in performances and pop-up arts at the Summer Farmers Market.

Barbara will be attending Career Day at Enfield High School to speak about starting a new business. She will be attending the Home Show. She will also be facilitating an art workshop at the Enfield Public Library on Wednesday, 3/13/24.

Barbara is planning a free community event, an Art Drop scavenger hunt for people to hide, find and keep. She will be collecting donations. She will have to research how to use parks and other town property for this event.

Barbara has expressed wanting to find the creatives in town doing their events. She would like to see a facilitated discussion with the community for what they would like to see in town. It was suggested that she look into a 501c3 to set up a community arts space. It was discussed that she reach out to Enfield Community Cares, North Central Chamber of Commerce, and other artist co-ops for additional networking.

Her goal is to be a hub for all things happening in Enfield. She would like to post events, sell tickets, send reminders of events and help to get the word out through her website.

Chairperson's Remarks

Opera House Players next show "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" will be having performances at the Enfield Annex starting Thursday February 8. Shows are Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday from Feb 8-Feb 18.

Open Mic Nights at the Library tomorrow night February 7 and will continue the first Wednesday of each month. We will need a small extension cord for the lights.

Enfield High School Senior, Abby Poreda will be having her art exhibit reception on Thursday, Feb 8th 5:30-7:30 at the Enfield Library, Pearl Street branch. There is parking on both sides of the street on Franklin and Pearl St.

The February Events Calendar has been shared.

Treasurer's Report

The current account balance is \$11936.00 as of last month's meeting.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

none present

TC Liasian's Remarks

none present

BOE Liaison's Remarks

none present

Old Business

The concert series sub-committee is working with the town manager's office on selecting and booking bands and performers for the Summer Concert Series. ECAC has forwarded all the band information received in the past year to the staff who are booking the event.

A motion was made for the cost of \$300 to create a designated website for the summer concert series. Jason Neely will be designing and maintaining the website. All voted in favor of this expenditure.

ECAC will reserve \$3000 for the summer concert series in anticipation of being asked to support the funding of the event.

The EQ Stamp out Hunger concert is still being planned. The cost for Sound for the event is anticipated to be \$3500. The event planners will need to get sponsors. 8 bands are being planned including a headliner. We will wait for more information regarding what support we can provide.

The Poetry in Enfield event was great. The event combined Poetry Out Loud and Connecticut World Language departments to have students recite poetry before judges. Emily, Joyce and Nzima participated as judges for the event.

New Business

Joyce would like to purchase more butterflies at the cost of \$1500. She would like to see more visual art throughout town. No vote was taken, we will look more at the budget next meeting.

Paul Bisaccia contacted ECAC with information regarding his new program and interest in performing in Enfield again. Emily reached out to Mary Keller at the Senior Center. Donna shared that for the past concerts, ECAC was responsible for renting the piano from Falcetti Music. ECAC did charge a nominal fee for tickets to cover the cost of the event.

ECAC will be special guests at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb 20th at 6:30pm. Board members who are interested in working together to create our presentation will meet on Monday, Feb 12th at 6:30 at the Barnes & Noble Cafe.

Frank Salas at Thompson Hall (formerly the Polish home) would like to set up a tour of the venue, date TBD. to build connections for future events.

The Women's Club of Enfield is hosting their annual Art show at Enfield High School on Friday, April 19 7-9pm and Saturday, April 20 12-3pm. Joyce made the motion for \$500 to be contributed for the scholarships, Dan 2nd the motion, all voted in favor.

Greg Gray, president of Enfield Pride would like to know if we are interested in having a community table at their Enfield Pride celebration event this year. Donna volunteered to attend the event on behalf of ECAC. Donna made a motion to contribute \$500 towards the event, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor.

Mini Grant received from Chris Scioscio, EHS Visual Arts Department for an Honors Art & Community Art Project. The project time frame would be Winter/Spring 2024. The class will be working on 3 different projects with EHS, EPS and the Enfield

community (ex: Riverside Reptiles, Shaker Farms, Enfield Produce, Enfield Food Shelf, etc.) Joyce made a motion to grant \$500, Dan 2nd, all voted in favor.

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Miscellaneous

An intern from the Town Manager's office in Windsor is establishing a Windsor Arts Commission and contacted ECAC for support in the creation of their initial vision and mission of the commission. They asked for our feedback by posing questions of how we define art and what groups we classify as arts organizations, how we maintain a calendar of events and the main responsibilities, tasks and goals of the Culture and Arts Commission. We discussed responses as a group and Emily will respond to them via email.

ECAC promotions are currently Facebook based. We will explore creating an electronic newsletter that can be emailed to interested community members.

During the month of February in honor of Black History Month, Emily has scheduled Facebook posts to feature local Enfield artists and creators.

Dan will look for the town census information to allow us to support the community by doing more cultural events, featuring dance, costumes, and family events in 2024.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Board secretary