

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
March 5, 2024, 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Jason Neely, Dan Keating, Joyce Bolanos, Christina Tetreault, Ken Nelson, Tina LeBlanc, Debi Kruzel, Nzima Hutchings, not present: Steph MacGillivray

Acceptance of Minutes

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

Special Guests

Christina joined us to share information about her Artisan Fair at Hazardville United Methodist Church on Saturday's: 3/9, 4/13, 5/11 from 10am-4pm. The event will not be a vendor fair, it will offer handcrafted goods and art only. The church is interested in Art displays in the church. The church wants to partner with ECAC to bring more art to town. The goal is to have weekly events and to offer art classes led by artists, including poetry.

During the summer, the fair can be expanded outside. The email for contact is Artisans4Enfield@gmail.com. Publicity is needed. Christina will be making a new flier for the April event.

Debi is interested in teaching a beginner's crochet class. There was discussion that holding the fair weekly may be oversaturation. The Artisan fair will feature different vendors than those that attend the Farmers Market on the town green. Ken questioned bringing the Artisan fair back to the mall.

[ECAC will support the event by sharing the flyers on social media.](#)

Chairperson's Remarks

March is Irish American History Month, Youth Art Month and Women's History Month. ECAC will be promoting these observances on social media throughout the month.

The Pearl Street Library will be displaying the artwork of 2 more seniors before the April Women's Club Art Show.

Nzima will be hosting a Mental Health Awareness event at the Enfield Public Library this Saturday 3/9.

The March online calendar has been shared on our Facebook page.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is \$5430.89.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

The art reception for Abby Poreda at the Pearl Street Library branch went very well. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library and attended by ECAC board members, Teachers, students and the community. It was very well attended.

ECAC voted last meeting to sponsor a website. The design was based on last year's summer concerts series poster. Jason previewed the concert series website.

Ken suggested Battle of the Bands for high school bands. The town council is looking for ideas to promote Higgins Park. Emily shared that there was discussion about a Battle of the Bands last summer. The 4th of July committee already sponsors one during the July event. The planning was a challenge.

TC Liasion's Remarks

Ken Nelson and John Santanella will be our council liasions. Ken mentioned that there is a photography display at the Social Services department at Alcorn. The photography class at Enfield High School was challenged with a theme, the photos were framed for display. Ken is interested in the Art installation being installed at the town hall to add color and art throughout the town hall.

The photography could be sold with the proceeds being returned to the school program. It could also be added to the Artisan fair to promote and expand.

We shared with our new liaisons about our Mini Grant program and our recurring community events.

There was discussion about creating a Friends of ECAC (501c3) as a revenue source to collect donations to be able to apply for grants and receive sponsors from local businesses. To collect donations through a phone app at the concert series. There was a question about how to collect donations to the ECAC General fund. Jason will talk to John Wilcox in finance about donations.

A question was asked "What does ECAC bring to the Town of Enfield?" The collection of donations can offset the cost of the concert series. Debi is telling the food trucks that there will be no cost for this year. Christina can charge vendors. Ken suggested having vendors sell items that are concert related like blankets to sit on. Ken explained "there is no talk about cutting our budget" We should continue to build the concert series this year and next year start changing.

BOE Liaison's Remarks

Tina LeBlanc is our BOE Liaison. Tina shared about the art in the community class at Enfield High School. They will be working to host a painting class at the Senior Center. Another idea is to host music events at the Senior Center. We shared that a mini grant has already been approved to support the program.

The discussion expanded to Christina sharing that she is interested in the EIMA students attending the Artisan fair but there is a concern over lack of chaperones. Tina suggested adding art to the Council chambers to add color.

The ECAC role is to find pieces, link them together and promote the opportunities. Debi suggested displaying art at the mall. Jason offered the community room at the Central Library. There are also ideas to put some gallery space at the Central library.

Tina suggested that ECAC share our information with the Enfield HUB, they have a Facebook page and a website.

The EHS Band, Orchestra, Jazz and Chorus as well as the JFK Band, Chorus and Elementary schools to be included in a community show during the Summer Concert Series. Would the school bands need sound production? Tina will talk with Mr. Rappucci.

Tina would like the students to lead technology classes at the Senior Center.

Old Business

Debi has been recruiting Food Trucks for the Concert series, she will compare lists with Christina.

A potential use for the Band shell could be to offer comedy shows, There was a suggestion of having a Poetry Slam featuring the Councils. The Lamplighters could preview their shows at the Bandshell. We could have comedians as opening acts for the bands. High School student bands could open up for the headlining bands. The Subcommittee will discuss piloting the ideas.

The EQ Music Fest Fundraiser to support the Enfield Food Shelf, Warming Center and Loaves and Fishes will be put on hold for this year. The cost for sound production was \$3500 and the event will need sponsors.

ECAC will be presenting to the Town Council on March 19.

ECAC is interested in creating a newsletter. Our square space website has the option to add a newsletter. Debi made a motion, Nzima 2nd, all in favor of adding onto the website. The cost of the website was \$200, we had previously allocated \$300 for the project.

We could build our email address database by holding a raffle and collecting email addresses for the entry. The Library uses this process and has their website linked to the Town website.

Dan will table the census info update.

Barbara Lawrence is pausing her Art Drop event for now.

Joyce would like to put the butterflies out on display. They are currently in storage. Suggestion to display at Higgins Part for the concert series.

Other towns make an effort to showcase visual art. Emily suggested talking to Chris and Asnuntuck about creating larger scale visual art. Ken suggested the welding and wood departments at EHS. He said to give the students a challenge to create an art piece, the council could approve it and have the students building. For the Senior class projects, they could create a steel erection to use as visual art. We should follow up with social services to see how they began their photography challenge.

New Business

We discussed the sound system at the Annex and Enfield High. We discussed the use of town buildings and performance spaces. Ken explained that the Annex will be off the table for using the building for free. The AC unit doesn't work. A new facilities use policy is in the works. It was mentioned that ECAC can finance/buy our own sound system equipment for our use.

A possible project for next year can include Riley's Irish dance, Enfield Community Chorus to sing Irish tunes, and using other community groups. We could charge tickets for Irish night and bring the cultural focus to ECAC.

ECAC will participate in town sponsored events. Board of Education buildings-get permission to use. Town sponsored vs 501c3.

Debi made a motion, Nzima 2nd, all voted in favor to allocate \$300 for swag giveaways for the ECAC table at the Women's Club Art Show.

Miscellaneous

Nzima's Poetry Cafe Show the first airing was recorded in February and is airing on COX TV. She will be recording the next episode soon. She is joining the Connecticut Poet Laureate Group; Enfield Poetry Festival is being planned for October to include performances and workshops featuring talent from the town. Nzima has run the Annual Hartford Book Festival featuring 100 vendors and 12 workshops.

She can hold her event as a town sponsored event by reserving space at the library in October. She will connect with students for poetry.

Nzima will be at Prudence Crandall in April for Poetry Month. Tina can help her with the schools.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Board secretary