

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
November 14, 2024, 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Thompsonville Room

Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Joyce Bolanos, Jason Neely, Dan Keating, Tony Ruggiero, Sarah Ballargion, Frank Salas, Alex Ranniello, Debi Kruzel

Not present: Nzima Hutchings, BOE Liaison, TC Liaison

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes from our October meeting made by Dan, Joyce 2nd, all voted in favor.

Special Guests

Tony Ruggiero from the Enfield Community Chorus spoke about the Annual Holiday concerts since 1976. Enfield Community Chorus is a non-profit organization, they are hosting their Holiday concert this year at the Enfield Annex on Dec 14th at 6pm, Dec 15th at 3pm. They are looking for sponsorship from ECAC.

Sarah Baillargeon is an artist who grew up in Enfield. She is a graduate from Enfield High/Fermi, and an alumnus of University of Hartford. Sarah is interested in working on the Enfield Art Squash project. She has gallery and art handling experience as well as studio experience. She works with acrylic and oil painting. She has some ideas for Art Squash, pictures, collaging, lettering being spaghetti squash. Jason gave Sarah the deposit for the artist fee.

Enfield Art Squash will be held at Thompson Hall, Enfield on October 17, 18, 19, 2024. At the beginning of the year, Joyce would like to create a subcommittee for the event. On October 17th, the event will have an opening Gala featuring spotlights and a yellow carpet. Enfield Public Access will be filming and there will be a livestream on social media. Joyce will advertise the event through the ECAC Google account and social media. Joyce is working with Aaron to apply for grants and work out the budget. She is waiting for quotes from signarama for marketing materials.

Frank Salas, owner of Thompson Hall (formerly the Polish Home) spoke about the hall being open and available for hosting events. There are concerns about handicap accessibility, there is a lift available for use as needed. Thompson Hall is being renovated and will feature a restaurant, bakery, arcade, and a store. Frank is looking for a mural in the Thompsonville section of town. He has been working on the outside of the building installing lighting and has plans to install more.

The building features a stage, and he is interested in hosting Open Mic nights, plays, a winter concert series, winter movie nights, comedy nights, and holiday events. He is looking to partner

with organizations to host events. He is working with ERFC and the Enfield Fencing Club. He will be hosting a wrestling event this weekend.

Frank has caterers for the food for events. He is working on a sound system in the future. For a winter concert series, sound equipment will need to be brought in. He has a projection screen and a stage. The capacity of the upstairs is 300 people, downstairs is 100 people. He is working on getting a liquor license and nonprofit 501c3 status. The hall rental fees are \$900-\$1000 Friday, Saturday, Sunday, \$300-\$500 Monday-Thursday.

The planned restaurant will feature a menu with burgers and wings and a 1950's Thompsonville history theme. Frank has ideas for signage, banners, landscaping, planters, and murals to improve the image of the Thompsonville area. He is looking for funding for ADA compliance.

Alex Ranniello spoke about the Enfield 250th Anniversary events in 2026. There will be a programming schedule for public art installations to celebrate the town's history. Alex is willing to volunteer for some portable murals. They are planning a summer vendor/pop-up market, featuring patriotic inspired items. The event will be an open house, walk through Art installation of the town set-up, live music, and live painting. The event will feature the Bigelow Carpet Mills, Veterans memorial and be inclusive of all families.

It was suggested that he look into Enfield Historical Society or Beautification Committee for partnership and sponsorships.

Alex is planning on inviting all the town commissions to get together for a networking event at the Fairfield Inn. He will be conducting surveys to gather community ideas, it was suggested that he send the survey out to the fire and police departments, boy scouts, girl scouts, 4th of July committee as well as the BOE Liaison and Senior Center/Recreation departments to send out as well.

Emily shared the idea that ECAC had in the past about a Group Photography exhibit and a 12 month Photography Calendar for 2026. An event passport can be created to send participants to different events across town for the celebration.

Alex has a presentation goal to present to Aaron for next year to plan for the event

Chairperson's Remarks

Emily is typing up an ECAC purchasing procedure document as general information about vendors, approvals, tax exempt status and the how-to's that we have learned over the years for board members to have a clear understanding of the process.

Treasurer's Report

Balance is \$35098, spent was \$600 for the library's birthday celebration and the artist deposit for Sarah B.

\$160 has been approved for Kristen at the Enfield Public Library for the Festival of Trees building event.

motion was made for \$120 for Festival of Trees reception refreshments by Joyce, 2nd by Debi, all voted in favor.

Staff Liaison's Remarks

Build-a-Tree Saturday will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at the Enfield Public Library. Created trees will be displayed for the Festival of Trees event. Art/Recycled supplies can be dropped off at the library up until the day of the event.

TC Liasian's Remarks

Not present

BOE Liaison's Remarks

Not present

Old Business:

Area Culture and Arts updates:

"Forever Plaid" by the Somers Players, featuring Enfield Performers

"The Girl with One Red Shoe" by the Valley Rep Players at CT State Asnuntuck written by Enfield's Glenn Reese

"Rock of Ages" by the Opera House Players at the Enfield Annex

Enfield Public Library 150th birthday celebration

Eli Whitney School will have a Jazz concert by the Cassotta Band on 11/25 at 9:45am, a recipient of an ECAC Mini Grant

Open Mic in November featured talented new participants. The December Open Mic will be a Holiday theme night. January is being planned as a poetry night, February will be a Love/Hate theme in honor of Valentine's day.

Emily will connect with the Enfield High School Faculty regarding Poetry in Enfield Event.

Women's Club Art Festival at Enfield High School will be April 25 and April 26, 2025

Build-A-Tree Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 9:30-11:00 am at the Enfield Public Library

New Business:

Enfield Community Chorus sponsorship discussed. Last year ECAC sponsored \$500. A motion was made to sponsor \$500 for this year's concert. Motion made by Dan, 2nd by Debi.

The Torchlight parade will be on Sunday, December 1st, with a rain date of December 8th. Nzima will be reading a poem.

Hazardville United Methodist Church is featuring Art Exhibits.

Miscellaneous

none

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Board Secretary