

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Monthly Meeting
February 4, 2025, 6:30pm
Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room

Roll Call

Donna Hamre, Emily Clifford, Joyce Bolanos, Jason Neeley, Nzima Hutchings, Dan Keating
Special Guests: Melissa Woodyard, Chad Woodyard from Ujima

Not present: Debi Kruzel, , BOE Liaison, TC Liaison

Acceptance of Minutes January 7 & January 14 Special meeting. Motion made by Dan to accept minutes, 2nd Joyce, all voted in favor

Chairperson's Report

none

Treasurer's Report

\$27476.92 Checks for Mark Warnock and Kevin Crane paid

Staff Liaison's Remarks

Drum circle will be returning to the library in March.

Summer concert series is being planned, there are currently 3 sponsors, possibly a 4th as announced by the Town Manager.

Trees from the Festival of Trees at the library are ready to be picked up.

Joyce donated a silver microphone sculpture for the Open Mic nights, Jason added it to the ECAC Open Mic bin at the library.

TC Liasian's Remarks

not present

BOE Liaison's Remarks

not present

Old Business:

Art Squash Update: Joyce sent a sponsorship packet to Greg Vaca, a Thompsonville Property developer for sponsorship. She also sent a letter to the Big Y president detailing the event and asking for sponsorship as well as provided him with an event poster for display in the store.

She spoke with Frank Salas regarding a soiree for an Art Squash event space preview, sponsored by August Farms. The event will be held on Feb 26 6-7:30pm. Anchor artists will be invited to the event. lights, house music, refreshments from area businesses. Joyce will borrow the spotlights used at Open Mic for the event.

Joyce will collect an art piece from Oly B. Visual art submissions are still being accepted.

Joyce currently has 12 easels, Nzima offered 12 more if needed.
Joyce spoke with Mark Dube from EHS and is waiting for a response from the art teacher.

Poet Laureate update: Nzima received anthology submissions, very few were from Enfield, many from towns throughout CT. She emailed the school literacy department and has not received a response.

Nzima is working on advertising for the April 26th Poetry Festival on Eventbrite, she invited the Friends of the Library and is inquiring how ECAC members will be supporting that day. She is looking for board members to help invite other groups, Enfield Community Chorus, PFLAG, the Fencing group to host a table and share their groups mission "poetically" She also invited the Enfield Food Shelf.

The event will have vendors. Nzima will be facilitating and running workshops. It will be indoor/outdoor weather permitting. In the event of rain, the event will be moved into the community room and the room divider can be closed if needed.

Nzima is looking for 6-8 volunteers to help for the event including setting up at 9am.

Nzima sent an email to board members this afternoon detailing 2 proposals.
She would like to have a Poet Laureate corner at the library featuring 2 chairs, a small table and a shelf for her books as well as other themed books. Her photo and poet laureate certificate can be hung on the wall for display. Nzima will work with Jason on getting it organized.

Nzima also is interested in hosting a Poetry club and emailed the proposal. She is interested in holding the workshop at the Annex once a month and a Poetry Open Mic at the library once a month. She will work with Jason to pick a date at the library and will inquire with Enfield Adult Education about the Annex. Her budget is \$500 per session, and she is interested in doing 2 sessions of 6-10 people per session. She would like to offer t-shirts and books for the participants. We discussed the option of charging a small fee to encourage commitment to the program.

Nzima also submitted her interest in a 2nd term for Enfield's Poet Laureate. Poet Submissions are open and will be accepted for a June appointment. An ad will be shared on our Facebook page.

Special Guests Michelle and Chad Woodyard from Ujima joined us to speak about the proposal they had submitted. They spoke about the upcoming 2nd annual Mental Health Awareness event happening in March at the Enfield Public Library. The event will feature a tea tasting as well as workshops featuring expressive writing, body movements, creative expression, and sound healing. The event will be open to the public and the save the date was shared on Facebook. An event flyer will be shared once available.

discussion about sharing the information with Enfield Social Services to inquire about their potential involvement or the sharing of resources.

Joyce shared that the workshops align more with our mission, not the mental health portion of our event. Dan suggested involving the Enfield Historical Society because Humanities are cultural.

Funding for the Mental Health program requested was \$2000. Joyce made a motion for \$1500. We discussed the event further and mentioned Enfield Social Services partnership to include their logo and seal on the event flyers. Nzima will check in with them. We discussed rebranding to call the event "Ujima's Healing through the Arts"

A motion was made to allocate \$2000 to Ujima for the event was made by Joyce, 2nd by Dan. with 4 votes in favor, Nzima abstained.

Emily suggested they call Enfield Youth Services to get Ujima on their radio show to get the word out more.

Old Business: The networking meeting will be pushed to discuss in March.

Summer concert series bands are to be determined, based on availability. Genres being planned are Yacht Rock, Female Country, Malado, Smooth Jazz, Pop, Classic Rock, Horn based Classic Rock, Millennial Rock. It was discussed to include music from the 70's, 80's, and 90's as well as Jazz, Speakeasy 1920's, Spanish and Contemporary Gospel.

Enfield National Night Out, Enfield Idol is being planned with 2 female cover singers. Possible closing band would be Billy Joel/Elton John cover band.

New Business:

Woman's Club Art Festival, April 25 7-9pm, April 26 12-3pm. Dan made a motion to allocate \$500, Joyce 2nd the motion.

New Art reception at the Pearl Street Library 2/13 5:30-7:30 reception, Grace Garro and Jenna Slater. Reception is hosted by the Friends of the Enfield Public Library.

Heritage Fair at JFK will be held March 29th. Our support has been asked for a performance by the Asian Performance Arts Dance Center. The budget is \$50 for flag stickers for the event passports, and \$450 for the dancers. Total budget is \$500. Joyce made a motion to approve \$500, Dan 2nd, all voted in favor.

Joyce and Emily will present to the Town Council at an upcoming meeting to announce the Art Squash event. Emily will contact Sheila for the date.

Miscellaneous

Opera House Players presents A Chorus Line at the Enfield Annex, dates are 2/7-2/9, 2/14-2/16, 2/21-2/23

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:42pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Board Secretary