

Enfield Culture and Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025 Enfield Town Hall, Scitico Room 6:00pm

meeting called to order at 6:37pm

Roll Call:

Jason Neeley, Emily Clifford, Joyce Bolanos, Donna Hamre, Nzima Hutchings, Dan Keating, Marie Pyznar, and Hailey(Ash) Bruce Not present: Debbi Kruzel

Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

Motion to accept September meeting minutes made by Donna, 2nd by Joyce, all voted in favor. favor.

Special Guests:

Hailey (Ash) Bruce, introduced themselves to the commission board. Sharing that they have been participating in Open Mic night since 2023. They just graduated High School this past June, and are interested in bringing the light to Art in Enfield. Ash's interests are in poetry, drums, music, art, and writing.

Ash shared ideas about building artistic community by putting together an organization to fundraise for students and young adults to be able to play their instruments, they also shared the idea of Poetry Slam nights for Enfield.

Emily reviewed what ECAC does, mini grant program, monthly meetings, signature events and programs we've done. Open Mic, Summer concert series, Poet Laureate program, Art Squash, Artist networking, Pearl St Art Exhibits and receptions. Jason added the art installation at the Pearl Street library and the instrument lending library.

Chairperson's remarks

Opera House Players holding auditions for Chess, 10/19, 10/20. Little Shop of Horrors opens Weekends, November 7-23.

Dionysus Theater: The Half-Light 10/10-10/26th

Valley Rep: Whodunit...and to Whom? 10/18, 10/24, 10/25

Jack-O-Lantern Festival 10/18 4pm-8pm

Emily attended the UCC, The Yale Wiffenpoofs on 9/30. part of their Rhoda Smyth concert series.

Treasurer's Report

Art Squash expenses: soda, projector screen, DJ, message board sign, Facebook ads, yellow plates. Art Squash spending was kept on budget for Art Squash line items.

Nzima Poet Laureate Stipend paid

current balance \$26,942

Staff Liaison's Remarks

Festival of Trees will be held on December 18th at the Enfield Public Library, ECAC has previously approved refreshments support, \$120 towards refreshments for the reception. Kristin would like to bring 2 princess characters from Wonderland Works to perform at the festival. The cost for both characters is \$350.

December 13th at 9:30am will be a Build-a-tree event for the Festival. Craft supply donations will be accepted. ECAC board is invited to attend.

TC Liaison's Remarks

Marie asked about a NCCCC ribbon cutting for Art Squash, Joyce wasn't interested.

The September minutes were questioned for comments about America 250. America 250 has no budget, it was explained by Emily and Jason that ECAC reserved \$5000 as a line item for our budget allocation.

Marie asked if there is something we want her to say at the Town Council meetings, to send it in an email as close to the council meeting as possible, the day of the meeting is preferred.

BOE Liaison's Remarks

Not Present

Old Business:

Eli Whitney had already booked the Vin Cassotta "History of Jazz" concert. The concert is open to the commission members to attend. Motion to vote on the concerts for the three upper elementary schools at \$500 each. Motion made by Dan, 2nd by Joyce, all voted in favor.

Art Squash Update:

Joyce is working with Emily on the program. A slide show is being created. Nzima will open the event with a poem. Kevin Crane will DJ the reception and will read thank yous. The community board will be changed to Art Squash on Monday. Bios are being received and printed, Joyce is creating a playlist to give to Kevin. Joyce will be ordering little spotlights and using the spotlights from Open Mic night that are at the library. A newspaper article was published in the Reminder.

A parking graphic will be created to announce where parking is allowed, there are questions about using St. Adalbert Parking lot and the need to call for permission.

Donna will be at the Merch table for the reception, Joyce will create a Venmo sign for her Venmo account for purchases, all purchases will be recorded in a receipt book and there is a yellow cash box. Donna will pass out pizza tickets at the merch table. Kevin can make Pizza and Soda announcements to visit the merch table for the vouchers.

Jason will bring his camera for the evening's photographs

We will need volunteers for Saturday 10/28, Debbi had volunteered to attend, Ash will be a volunteer for the event as well, Joyce will not be present on Saturday due to a prior commitment, she will ask the artists to volunteer as well.
Nzima will pass out programs

Poet Laureate updates

Nzima is working on next year's poetry festival.

She is adding a Poetry for a cause feature to her poetry club by having a food drive to start in December.

On December 6th, Nzima will be doing a poetry reading at the Enfield Historical Society Museum Open House.

The 2nd installment of the poetry club will start in January featuring cafe hour, poetry club with snacks, coffee and tea refreshments.

December 7th is the Torchlight parade and she will be doing a reading.

December 13th for the build a tree event, she would like to do a hat and gloves drive

Jason explained that the library already accepts donations during November and December for the Enfield Food Shelf.

It will be added to the November agenda to vote on the Poetry Club request of \$500 for the next installment.

New Business

Festival of Trees request for 2 Wonderland Works Princess characters totaling \$350. Dan made a motion to approve, 2nd by Joyce, all voted in favor.

Festival of Trees \$120 for refreshments was previously voted and added as a line item in our budget.

Miscellaneous

An ECAC application has been received by Nick Snow, he will attend our virtual November meeting to introduce himself.

ECAC will discuss applications and make a recommendation to appoint an applicant to the Town Council for appointment.

Our next meeting will be November 4th, the meeting will be virtual.

Emily did reach out to the Annex for additional vertical shelving, and to inquire about storage space for the Art Squash fixtures to be stored. She will follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Donna Hamre, ECAC Secretary