

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Kaspr at approximately 6:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

ATTENDANCE: Brian Kaspr (Chair), Janay Sylvester, Nori Grudin, Danny Loftus George, Melissa Matuska, Naomi Clark

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Special Meeting held July 8, 2025, were presented for approval. Mr. Kaspr asked for comments, additions, or corrections; none were offered.

**** MS. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**** MS. SYLVESTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. SYLVESTER AND MR. LOFTUS GEORGE).**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Jahmane West raised a concern about the guidelines prohibiting use of AI in submissions and expressed desire to understand the process noting that one of the submissions was clearly AI.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval for Inclusion in Public Survey: Oksana Tanasiv, Ely Avenue Fence

There were no new materials or discussion regarding Ms. Oksana Tanasiv's proposal.

**** MS. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE FORWARDING MS. OKSANA TANASIV'S PROPOSAL FOR THE ELY AVENUE FENCE TO THE PUBLIC SURVEY FOR CONSIDERATION.**

**** MR. LOFTUS GEORGE SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Approval for Inclusion in Public Survey: Jahmane West, Ely Avenue Fence

There were no new materials or discussion regarding Mr. West’s proposal.

**** MR. LOFTUS GEORGE MOVED TO APPROVE FORWARDING MR. JAHMANE WEST’S PROPOSAL FOR THE ELY AVENUE FENCE TO THE PUBLIC SURVEY FOR CONSIDERATION.**

**** MS. NAOMI CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Approval for Inclusion in Public Survey: Raf Santella (Five Fingaz), Ely Avenue Fence

Substantial discussion took place regarding Mr. Santella’s (Five Fingaz) proposal and concerns about potential use of AI in its production. The Commission reviewed technical aspects of Illustrator files, AI detection results, and anecdotal evidence.

****MS. CLARK MOVED TO CONSIDER INCLUSION OF MR. SANTELLA’S PROPOSAL FOR THE ELY AVENUE FENCE IN THE PUBLIC SURVEY.**

**** MR. LOFTUS GEORGE SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION FAILED WITH FOUR (4) NAYS AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. MATSUKA AND MS. GRUDIN).**

A clarification and revote was then conducted:

**** MR. LOFTUS GEORGE MOVED TO REVOTE ON THE INCLUSION OF MR. SANTELLA’S PROPOSAL IN THE PUBLIC SURVEY.**

**** MS. CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION FAILED WITH FOUR (4) NAYS AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. MATSUAK AND MS. SYLVESTER).**

D. Adoption and Use of Arts and Cultural District Logo

Discussion was held on final logo options, prepared by the Commission’s hired graphic designer, Ms. Ash and presented by Mr. Kaspr and Ms. Godeski. The two directions were explored, and members expressed preference for the colorful mark (Direction 2).

**** MS. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE DIRECTION 2 AS THE OFFICIAL LOGO FOR THE ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICT.**

**** MS. MATUSKA SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. WSHU Partnership Proposal

Ms. Godeski described a request from Mr. Dancer, representing a public radio station, for the Commission to partner in promoting a local artists' sticker design contest, with the radio station offering a monetary award and public recognition.

The Commission's role would be limited to using its networks to encourage submissions and potentially assist in selection but not provide City funding nor run the call as a formal commission process.

Some members raised that standard guidelines for AI or other content were not outlined but recognized the limited scope and external funding.

The consensus was to proceed pending more details.

VII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Kaspr updated members on the lease renewal for the Center for Contemporary Printmaking and encouraged support statements at the upcoming Land Use Committee meeting.

Ms. Matuska and Mr. Loftus George requested a list of all organizations benefitting from low-cost city leases as well as information on available spaces or RFP processes; Ms. Godeski committed to making inquiries with City departments.

Mr. Loftus George described plans for a 1,200 square foot retail/community art space for the Commission as part of the Wall Street Place development, urging the Commission to consider its best use and management.

Mr. Loftus George further shared news of a large art donation and the need for a local gallery space, inviting those with experience or interest in gallery operations to contact him.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. CLARK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** MS. SYLVESTER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Baldwin