

CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
OCTOBER 3, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Brian Kaspr, Chair; Robert Abriola, Naomi Clark, Nori Grudin, Ava Jacobs, Melissa Matuska, Steven Rust

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski, Staff

OTHERS: Annica Harun; MJ Josh Lindo-Lawyer, Mural Artists

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kaspr called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kaspr acknowledged those in attendance as above noted. There was a quorum present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for Public Comments.

** MR. KASPR MOVED TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA TO HAVE THE OLD BUSINESS MURAL UPDATES NEXT IN THE ORDER.

** MS. MATUSKA SECONDED THE MOTION.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Kaspr welcomed Annica back to the Commission, and she presented the final renditions of the 'You are Not Alone' mural proposal. There were comments on the design elements, color, lettering and the themed color on the faces. There was discussion and suggested recommendations to change the 'r' in 'are' and 'l' in 'ALONE' to have all capital letters. It was agreed to approve the mural as presented with the changes noted, on condition that it can be sent to the members for final approval with modifications.

- ** MR. ABRIOLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE ‘YOU ARE NOT ALONE’ MURAL WITH THE LETTERING ON ‘R’ TO BE MORE LEGIBLE.
- ** MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Matuska proposed an amendment for another change.

- ** MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO CHANGE TO THE ‘YOU ARE NOT ALONE’ MURAL WITH THE ‘L’ IN ALONE TO BE CAPITAL LETTERS.
- ** MR. ABRIOLA SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was discussion on the location on the location of Wilson Avenue and a suggestion that Norwalk High School was the best location, but there is pending construction. Ms. Godeski suggested Ely & Lowe as a more Hispanic neighborhood, and she showed a photo of this proposed additional location.

- ** MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE SECOND LOCATION OF THE ‘YOU ARE NOT ALONE’ MURAL TO BE ELY AVENUE AND LOWE STREET.
- ** MR. ABRIOLA SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was noted that if it was determined that this location would not work, a change would come back to the Commission for approval. There was further discussion on the possibility of cleaning or plaster application to remove the vegetation, or to use a power washing with the artists review.

Mr. Kaspr introduced MJ and Josh Lindo-Lawyer to review the review of the mural at the Monroe Street train station overpass. Photos were presented and there were comments on the concrete panels that may affect the view of the mural. There was discussion on the paperwork from the DOT for maintenance agreements.

- ** MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL DESIGN FOR THE MURAL AT THE MONROE STREET AT THE TRAIN STATION UNDERPASS.
- ** MS. JACOBS SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kaspr noted that the Commission will assist with what they may need as far as travel arrangements or hotel pricing for the installation.

Approval of the Minutes – September 5, 2023

Mr. Kaspr requested a correction on page 2 to the motion to add Mr. Abriola’s vote to the votes in favor.

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- ** MR. ABRIOLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 AS AMENDED WTH CORRECTION NOTED.
- ** MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Review

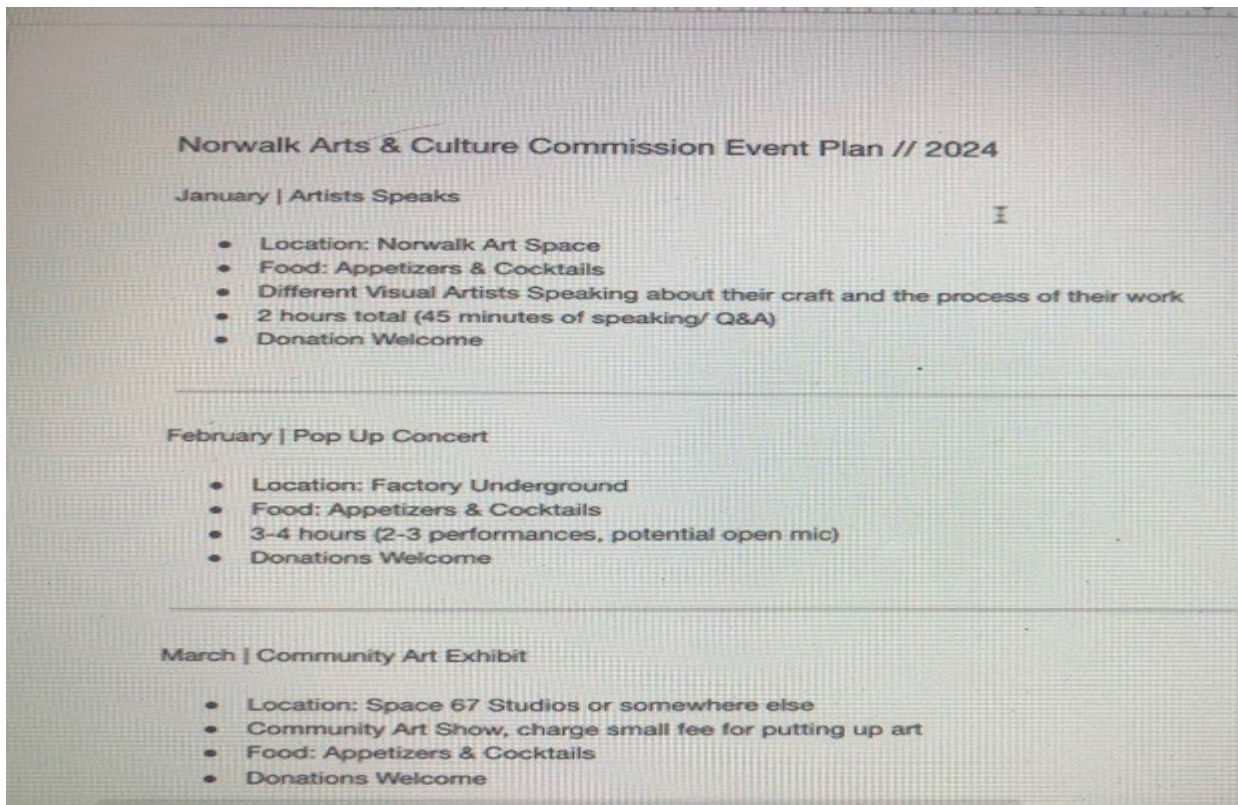
Mr. Abriola noted that he no changes to the report of monthly expenses, and he referred to the forecast and actuals on the excel sheet as sent by email.

Update on Current Projects

Mr. Abriola noted that if members have any projects that you'd like to be discussed for budget considerations, please email them to him to summarize for next month's budget meeting.
Capital Accounts. Ms. Godeski fielded questions and comments on the annual process of applying for capital funds.

Events Update

Ms. Jacobs presented her list of proposed ideas for the first quarter of 2024.



She added ideas for Halloween that would include fundraisers as well and Open Mic events that could be a concert series with artists or Open Painting for a pop up roller rink with artist participation or painting opportunities for community to use special events budgeted funds.

It was agreed that the Communications Committee could develop a mailer or newsletter to promote events.

There was further discussion on a Mural Festival or Paint the Town' event with storefronts posting murals. Mr. Kaspr noted that a location could be the Industrial Park and he has been in touch with Dave Genovese, property owner, to support the event. He will bring to the Commission more details next month or a preliminary proposal with a budget for City funding cooperatively with other groups or stakeholders. Ms. Godeski noted that there is preliminary approval from the City to put a proposal together and she will work with the sub-committee on the next steps.

Bus Stop Art Project

Ms. Godeski noted that incorporating the fines on the West Avenue Mural Wall, and there was discussion on the restoration or economical cost effective measures to remove, stack and store. The Redevelopment Agency may want to keep as is due to the size, as the installation is complicated. It was agreed to look at affordable options to best utilize and preserve the items.

Other Business

Ms. Grudin asked what has been done about the eyesore at Donovan's with the peeling mural.

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Ms. Godeski gave an update on attempts to notify the condo association for repairs and intentions to repair the brick and the damages from power-washing. There was discussion of the option of blight condition improvements or funding available from private property without removal.

There was no further business.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. ABRIOLA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEEING.
- ** MS. MATUSKA SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Telesco Secretarial Services