

CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Brian Kaspr, Chair; Danny Loftus George, Vice Chair; Robert Abriola, Marc Allan, Nori Grudin, Ava Jacobs, Melissa Matuska, Steven Rust

OTHERS: Sabrina Godeski, Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kaspr called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present for Public Comments.

Member Introductions

Mr. Kaspr noted the resumes included in the agenda packet and asked the members to introduce themselves. Ms. Godeski noted that this was required as part of the state guidelines for Arts Commission.

Approval of the Minutes - June 6, 2023

- ** MR. ABRIOLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2023 AS SUBMITTED.
- ** MR. ALAN SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Ordinance Review

Ms. Sabrina Godeski presented the new City Ordinance as contained in the agenda packet and highlighted the purpose as follows:

City of Norwalk
Arts & Cultural Commission
August 1, 2023

The purpose of the Commission shall be to serve as stewards for the City of Norwalk's public art collection and cultural assets; promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public through the marketing of arts and cultural attractions, as well as encourage, facilitate, and cooperate with artists and artistic and cultural enterprises and organizations for the development of the creative, performing, and visual arts as well as cultural activities in the City of Norwalk.

Ms. Godeski went through each section of the ordinance and explained the membership, duties, operations, administration, budget, expenditures, acceptance of art, and sponsorship of events. Questions and comments were fielded throughout, and there was discussion of the aspects of the ordinance as it related to the city and state commission guidelines.

Committee Formation – Lead Assignments

Mr. Kaspr noted that the following sub-committees will be formed, based on interest expressed by members:

- Arts Projects Committee (rotating based on projects)
- Events Committee (rotating based on projects)
- Budget Committee

It was noted to email the Chair or Vice Chair with committee intentions. Mr. Kaspr will reach out to members to meet to review committee interests.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Review

Ms. Godeski presented the Arts and Cultural Commission budget as contained in the agenda packet. She gave an overview of the expenses by category and fielded questions and comments.

Capital Accounts

A summary of YTD Expenses and Account Balances was outlined as contained in the agenda packet. Ms. Godeski provided an overview and fielded questions and comments.

Update on Current Projects

Ms. Godeski provided a map of the Urban Core and a summary highlight of the current projects and referred to outlines as contained in the agenda packet and fielded questions and comments:

- Monroe Street Underpass
- West Avenue Underpass
- Ely Avenue Fence

Mr. Kaspr referred to the 'You Are Not Alone Murals' and highlighted the background and input from the community. He explained the program at Brien McMahon High School. There as discussion on how to involve students at the high school, with suggestions to address mental health issues with assemblies. It was agreed to collaborate with the Dept. of Health and to provide plan ideas for next month's meeting.

Marketing Plan Discussion

Mr. Kaspr referred to the Marketing Plan outline as contained in the agenda packet. He noted that more information will be gathered and presented at next month's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Abriola asked about the Traffic Graphic Boxes. Ms. Godeski explained that she will be working with the Mayor's office to tweak the contract with legal on updates to boxes as needed.

There was no further business.

ADJOURNMENT

** MR. ALAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEEING.
** MATUSKA SECONDED THE MOTION.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Knox
Telesco Services