ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024
VIA TELECONFERENCE

ATTENDANCE:	Brian Kaspr; Chair, Danny L. George, Marc Alan, Nori Grudin (6:04 p.m.), Melissa Matuska, Naomi Clark, Heather Dunn (6:49p.m.)
STAFF:	Sabrina Godeski, Director of Business Development & Tourism.
OTHER:	Janay Sylvester

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kaspr called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Kaspr acknowledged those in attendance as noted above. Ms. Grudin joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Godeski promoted Janay Sylvester to a participant but not vote.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

a. Approve the minutes of the March 5, 2024, of the Arts and Cultural Commission.

** **MR. ALAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**
** **MS. GRUDIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE YEAS AND ONE ABSTENTION (MR. GEORGE).**

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Review – Bob Abriola & Sabrina Godeski

Ms. Matuska filled in for Mr. Abriola. She stated there was no change since the last meeting. She said if there were any questions, she had the documents available. Mr. Alan added that the only change would be the funding for the performers at Market Place on Washington Street event.

b. Art Teaching Fellowship – Naomi Clark

Ms. Clark Presented an update on the teaching fellowship. She indicated she would be meeting with the necessary people after spring break.

c. General Committee Member Updates

There were no member updates discussed.

d. Approve the Market on Washington St. budget for musicians.

Mr. Alan discussed the funding required to add musicians to the Market Place on Washington Street. Using social media, he put out a call for artists interested in participating. He stated they found twelve artists to perform. He discussed the three available storefronts and the placement of the performers. Mr. Alan indicated that there would be a stipend of $150.00 per performer, $300.00 for a duo, and $450. 00 for three or more. Mr. Kaspr asked if that sum was per month. Mr. Alan indicated it could be a shifting situation. H stated other fundraising may be necessary. Ms. Godeski stated they should approve the funding for the maximum amount of $10,000. Mr. George had questions about the event. Mr. Kaspr stated they were piggybacking on events that were already in place. He said the budgeted funds had to be spent to ensure they would get their budget for next year.

Mr. Kaspr noted that the performers could sell their merchandise without the commission taking a cut.

Mr. Alan stated that the performers had their equipment. He felt that in the future, equipment could be rented to achieve a better talent rotation.

Mr. Alan questioned whether this was the total amount left in the budget. Mr. Kasper indicated any remaining funds would be applied to the Mayor's Gallery. Ms. Godeski listed the funds available. Ms. Grudin asked if money for equipment should be put to a separate vote. Mr. Kasper said the $10,000 was the money available to work with.

** **MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE $10,000 TO BE ALLOCATED OVER 3 MONTHS FOR THE NORWALK ACC TO OVERSEE THE INSERTION OF LIVE PERFORMANCES AT THE MARKET PLACE ON WASHINGTON STREET EVENT.**
** **MS. CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****		THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE YEAS AND ONE ABSTENTION (MR. GEORGE).**

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Mr.George had questions about having a BMI or ASCAP license. Mr. Kaspr suggested Mr. George and Mr. Alan speak offline.

e. Approve the stipend for Poet Laureate Program

Mr. Alan gave an update on the current poet laureate situation. He said the current poet laureate was getting ready to step down. Mr. Alan stated that a poet laureate selection committee was in place. He indicated there was discussion about the various guidelines being considered. Mr. Alan had an idea for choosing a junior poet laureate from Norwalk City high schools.

Mr. Alan discussed the potential stipend and hoped that the Norwalk Public Library would match the funds from the Arts and Cultural Commission as they have in previous years. Mr. Alan stated it would be best to hold off on a vote for the funding until July 2024.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. Vines relocation discussion

Mr. Kaspr indicated that the Maritime Museum Garage wasn't approved as site to move The Vines sculpture. He entertained suggestions for a new location. Mr. Alan said the sculpture was on the DOT property. He suggestedit could be moved to another structure under DOT jurisdiction. Ms. Godeski suggested Heritage Park. She stated it would be easy and cost-effective to move it.

Ms. Matuska suggested a bridge near the SONO sign. Mr. Kaspr had concerns about the installation affecting the structural integrity of the bridge. Ms. Grudin suggested to use Brien McMahon High School as a possible location. It was also suggested to put sections of the sculpture in all the high schools. Mr. George said Washington Street might be a good location. Mr. Alan asked if they could keep it where it is and paint the mural around it. Mr. Kaspr said the mural artist said no. but conceded it was a possibility. Ms. Grdin pointed out the difficulty of trying to paint around the sculpture.

b. Approve the Mayor's Gallery (music history exhibit)

Mr. Alan discussed the plans for a new Mayor's Gallery exhibit. He said it was going to feature Norwalk-born musicians. Mr. Alan described what would be involved. He said it would consist of portraits and a QR code so that people could scan to hear a sample of the music. Mr. Kaspr suggested determining how much money would be needed for the project. It was decided to vote on funding in May to put a vote off until May. Mr. Alan proposed a ribbon-cutting event. He stated that they could have Norwalk Musicians in attendance.

Mr. Kaspr noted that the commission was in charge of the empty Maritime Museum Gallery. He said he was open to suggestions for how it may be utilized. Ms. Godeski indicated there were other spaces available at City Hall.

Ms. Clark offered to curate a show for the Maritime Gallery. She said she would put together a proposal for the next meeting. Mr. George suggested a high school competition for their work to appear in the gallery. Ms. Clark indicated she isn't opposed to the idea but was thinking more along the lines of professional artists.

Ms. Grudin discussed the hanging system in the People's Gallery. It was noted that it was also empty. Ms. Grudin suggested bringing in local guilds and theaters to hang pictures from their various events.

Ms. Dunn Joined the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Ms. Dunn felt the Mayor's Gallery would make a good Capstone Project.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

** **MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
** **MR. GEORGE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services