ARTS & CULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024
VIA TELECONFERENCE

ATTENDANCE: Brian Kaspr; Chair, Steven Rust; VM, Melissa Matuska; VM, Marc Alan; VM, Bob Abriola (6:02 p.m.), Nori Grudin (6:02 p.m.)

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski, Director of Business Development & Tourism

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Town Council Member Heather Dunn joined the meeting as a public participant.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

a. Approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023, regular meeting of the Arts and Cultural Commission.

** **MR. RUST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**
** **MR. ALAN SECONDED.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE AYES AND ONE ABSTENTION (STEVEN RUST).**

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget Review – Sabrina Godeski for Bob Abriola

Ms. Godeski presented the current budget review and stated that Telesco was the only major expense. Ms. Godeski noted the capital budget had not changed even though a purchase order for $50,000 had been created for the MJ and Josh mural. She explained it was lock-boxed in a separate account and stated the same process was applied to the other mural projects. Ms. Godeski also discussed the funding for the mural festival and public art inventory.

Mr. Abriola and Ms. Grudin joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

b. Events Update – Ava Jacobs

Ms. Jacobs was not present.

i. Public Art Festival – Brian Kaspr

Mr. Kaspr discussed the importance of getting the You Are Not Alone and the Monroe Street Underpass projects on the calendar. He indicated the Town Council representing the district wanted them to have some public engagement event for the Monroe Street project and suggested several commission members could speak. Ms. Matuska had questions about an intended date and whether or not it might interfere with a medical procedure.

Ms. Dunn joined the conversation and stated that the council's concern wasn't about public engagement but a lack of an educational component built into the project. She alluded to the idea that the more community engagement you have the less vandalism you experience.

Ms. Dunn also mentioned a mural and its artist. Mr. Alan filled Ms. Dunn in on the plans surrounding the mural and its location.

Mr. Alan discussed creating opportunities for the young artists of Norwalk. He also stated that graffiti issues could be avoided by offering creative opportunities to young people.

Mr. Kaspr indicated everything was in the works for the You Are Not Alone mural. The artist was in discussions to determine which of her three designs they would select. He then discussed the public art festival noting the situation was vague,but recommended the formation of a sub-committee. He also talked about potential locations for the festival and the hope for donations and sponsorship to bring the event to fruition.

c. Art Teaching Fellowship – Naomi Clark

Naomi Clark was not present at the meeting. Mr. Kaspr stated she had been in touch with the BOE who were interested in developing a teaching fellowship based on the Guggenheim framework.

d. Equity Statement Update – Marc Alan

Mr. Alan gave a presentation indicating he'd met with Latoya Fernandez, DEI officer for the Mayor's office. Ms. Fernandez had come up with a draft discussing equity policies. He stated he was sending the document to the Fairfield Cultural Alliance and was waiting for amendments and suggestions. His hope was this could lead to a model for future programs.

e. General Committee Member Updates

Mr. Alan discussed a sculpting project using salvaged materials from the Walk Bridge Project. There was also discussion about where the salvaged materials could potentially be stored. Mr. Kaspr mentioned other projects around the country using salvaged materials.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. Approve the amended artwork proposal for the SPAG Traffic Graphic Box at Cross Street Box #2/B/5. – Bob Abriola

Mr. Abriola indicated he was a member of the Artist Guild of Norwalk and discussed the Traffic Box Program submission of a design for approval. He also stated the person who designed the box was no longer with the group. Mr. Abriola was going to submit a new design. He presented a slide showing the previous design and the new design being submitted for approval.

** **MS. METUSKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW DESIGN IN THE SAME LOCATION.**
** **MR ALAN SECONDED.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED WITH 5 AYES AND 1 ABSTENTION (BOB ABRIOLA).**

Ms. Grudin requested that issues regarding the Grape Vine be placed on next month's agenda. Mr. Kaspr suggested looking into the situation before the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

** **MS. METUSKA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
** **MR. BRIAN SECONDED.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services