CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

ATTENDANCE: Brian Kaspr; Chair, Marc Alan, Nori Grudin, Steven Rust, Melissa Matuska, Naomi Clark, Kevin Huffman; Ex-Officio, Brad Dancer; Ex–Officio

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kaspr alled the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called as reflected above

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: February 4, 2025

Mr. Kaspr noted that Mr. Loftus was not at the meeting and his name should be removed as an attendee.

** **MR. ALAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
** **MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (NAOMI CLARK) .**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approve the City of Norwalk Mural Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Artist Selection Policy.

Mr. Kaspr discussed changes in some of the wording. He said the changes removed specificity and quantity details. In response to Mr. Alan's question, Ms. Godeski stated that the document would have to be brought back, amended, and approved by the commission. Mr. Kaspr asked if the rubric was still in the document. Ms. Godeski answered in the affirmative. In response to Mr. Alan, Mr. Kaspr explained the rubric. Mr. Kaspr then read the section describing public engagement, noting it hadn't been modified. The process for selecting an artist was described The commission agreed on adding language giving the commission final approval in the case of a tie.

** **MR. ALAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE SELECTION POLICY AS AMMENDED.**
** **MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Godeski said she would handle publicizing the document.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve the release of the Ely Avenue Fencing RFQ.

Mr. Kaspr discussed the release of the RFQ for the Ely Avenue Fencing. He asked if there were issues with the RFQ. He also discussed wording in the document that needed to be updated to avoid conflict with the Master file. Mr. Alan had questions about an artist previously selected for the project. Mr. Kaspr stated that considering the blowback from the West Avenue project and, keeping with the new policy it was in the commission's best interest to release it as an RFQ. Ms. Godeski explained the artist had been paid for the work she had done. Mr. Kaspr stated they would reach out to her to see if she was still interested. Mr. Kaspr also pointed out the project was only for Connecticut residents with a focus on Norwalk, then Fairfield County and there had to be community engagement. Mr. Alan felt that since the location is in the middle of the Cultural District preference should be given to more local artists. Mr. Kaspr said at this point they were looking for qualified artists and artist Teams. Once in place, it can be decided what social issues the project may affect. Ms. Matuska suggested the message they would like to send can be added to the rubric. She also asked if anything would be done on the blighted property across the street. Ms. Godeski noted the owner of the property has been fined and that's where it ends. Mr. Rust wanted to know if anything was being considered for the side facing the train tracks. Ms. Godeski said it was something that could be included in the Proposal piece, but the artist would have to stay within the budget constraints. She also pointed out that the side facing the tracks is a liability and they can't get in there to clean, hence putting up something that will cover it.

** **MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE ELY STREET FENCING RFQ.**
** **MR. ALAN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Approve the expenditure for the Norwalk Open Mic Night co-sponsored with Factory Underground at an amount not to exceed $1,000.

Ms.. Janay's absence, Ms. Godeski outlined the plans and discussed funding for Norwalk Open Mic Nights.

Mr. Alan indicated he was part of the planning going forward. He also gave a more thorough description of the poetry night. He indicated that the event would be recorded.

In response to M, Huffman's question Ms. Godeski stated that admission to the public would be free.

Ms. Grudin asked about the capacity of the venue. Mr. Alan said they would probably use the second floor of the factory underground that holds 100 people. She also asked about charging a nominal fee. Mr. Alan indicated he doesn't want to charge because it is a community event.

** **MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE FOR THE NORWALK OPEN MIKE NIGHT.**
** **MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. DISCUSSION

A. Budget Review

Ms. Godeski presented the budget report documented in the agenda packet.

B. Member Updates

Ms. Grudin informed the commission that Rowayton Elementary is working on its proposal for its Traffic Graphic box.

Mr. Rust complimented Ms. Godeski and Kimberly Wilson's event at the Concert Hall.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services