

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 7, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board: Chairman Marc Alan, Brian Kaspr, Bob Abriola, Nori Grudin, Melissa Matuska, Nori Grudin, Steven Rust (6:15)

Staff: Sabrina Godeski

Chairman Alan called the meeting to order at 6:05. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

III. ADMINISTRATION

a. Approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 special meeting.

**** **Mr. Abriola moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 meeting.**

**** **Mr. Kaspr seconded the motion.**

**** **The motion passed unanimously.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion on proposed Community Room Student Art Project.

Ms. Godeski talked about a plan to expand the People's Gallery to incorporate student art work. Since there are existing glass showcases in the community room, they had the idea to do a mini canvas show. These would be a 4"x4" canvases on small easels. There is money in Ms. Godeski's budget and the schools will contribute as well. This would be in addition to any other art shows.

V. COMMITTEE STAFF UPDATES

a. Budget Committee Update – Nori Grudin and Sabrina Godeski

1. FY24 Capital and operating budget update.

Mr. Grudin reported that there is over \$11,000 left in the budget. Ms. Godeski added there is additional money available in the advertising budget and if there is going to be an ArtSpeak event. This money needs to be spent by the end of June. Some ideas to spend the money are to refresh some of the traffic boxes and renewing the membership to the Call to Entries account, and adding lighting to some public art pieces.

There is no change in the Capital fund until the state approves the mural projects.

Ms. Godeski pointed out that the expense for social media will go away in the summer.

b. Communications Committee Update – Marc Alan and Sabrina Godeski

1. Visit Norwalk transition.

Mr. Alan would like Ms. Alterman to join this committee, but they have not all had a chance to meet yet. On July 1st, all communications will go through Visit Norwalk.

Mr. Alan made the point that this transition will help make Norwalk an arts destination at the state level.

c. Infrastructure Committee Update – Brian Kaspr

1. State progress.

Ms. Godeski reported that the state has not yet approved the expenditures for the murals. There is no timeline for when this might get approved. Once that happens, there should be no barriers to moving forward quickly.

2. Bloomberg grant application status and timeline.

Ms. Godeski reported that all the paperwork has been completed, and approval should be given in March. Even if the grant doesn't come through there is enough capital funds set aside and this project will still go forward.

Mr. Kaspr discussed a non for profit organization called You are Not Alone. They would like to do a series of five murals around Norwalk that address mental health issues. This would not cost Norwalk anything.

There was discussion about the possibilities of new public art pieces and where murals would be appropriate and add value.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. Arts and Culture District update.

This is a state recognized entity. Mr. Alan has been proposing the city of Norwalk be an arts and cultural city. It ties into the Visit Norwalk initiatives. The arts and culture district would include the museums. The process for approval from the state has been started. Being an arts and culture district would allow the arts and cultural commission to raise funds and apply for grants for the arts. When this happens the Arts Commission will become the Arts and Cultural Commission, with a total of six members.

Mr. Abriola suggested inviting artists to the commission meetings as a way to start the Artspeak programs.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

*****Mr. Kaspr moved to adjourn the meeting.**

*****Mr. Abriola seconded the motion.**

*****The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Chapple
Telesco Secretarial Services

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