



**Town of East Hartford
Commission on Culture and Fine Arts**

740 Main St.
East Hartford, CT 06108-3114

East Hartford Raymond Library
840 Main Street
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024

Kelly Bilodeau

2024 MAR 18 PM 3:21

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Roz White called meeting to order at 7:01PM

I. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Amanda Ackley, Tamara Bryan-Chuchro, Michael MacDonald, Joan Coates, Lisa Gold, Glynis McKenzie, Susan Tukey, Thomas Lumpkin, Lakisher Hurst, Paul Wilusz and Roz White

ALSO PRESENT: Sarah Morgan, Library Director

ABSENT: Aida Ortiz - excused

Chair White -Has everyone read the minutes? Going forward we are going to tag the minutes. If you have not read the minutes then you should not be voting on the minutes.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: February 8, 2024

Corrections to minutes- Under EHSYF sentence should read: President has been speaking with the Artist Collective in Hartford about holding the Program there

Also under number VII-New Business-in the last sentence word should be than not then.

Motion to approve minutes with two corrections made by Com. Coates and seconded by Com. Gold.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Chair White asks new Com. Wilusz to introduce himself.

My name is Paul Wilusz. I am from Manchester, have been in East Hartford for one month and two weeks. Former Board of Education member in Bloomfield. I attended the Town Hall Meeting, very excited what I heard. The town directors were very open to ideas; I liked that. Very excited to be here, lots of activities going on here, I think I can bring in new ideas. Looking forward to being on board here.

Guests in attendance: Sophia Sowell been here for 27 years and my daughter Adriana Sowell.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT:

I went to the Mayor's office again about this commission. We are a collection of different walks of life, all our opinions or suggestions are valid. One thing I complained about; at our last meeting we had a disagreement. One thing the Mayor asked was did we have a vote? Yes we did, once you vote, the vote stays. Commissioner MacDonald interrupts, I asked for a debate.

Another Commissioner states no you did not. Chair White continues -one thing I want to let you know all our meetings are recorded. We have to respect each other. I took off EHSYF off the

agenda, they are a private entity. They have a 501C3. It is a private entity not a Town entity. Further discussion held. Visitor Sophia Sowell spoke on raising her children through the music and the arts; fabric of East Hartford.

Sarah Morgan asked for a clarification whether it's separate on standard agenda, is it separate from what we give them every year. Agreed that historically the commission has given EHSYF \$1500. Last year we gave them \$2900. Chair states it's a budgeted line item. Disagreement from Com. MacDonald continues.

More discussion between commissioners interrupts Chair. Com. Hurst states that there is a difference between a spirited discussion and threats or disrespect. Com. Hurst spoke that votes should be respected even if we disagree. She was interrupted by Com. MacDonald stating that there should be a discussion and debate. Com. McKenzie advised that with each event we are never sure how many are going to attend but it's our goal provide. Com. MacDonald was loud and argumentative. Com. Lumpkin spoke that he agrees with Com. MacDonald and the process needs to be changed by presenting proposal to the group before votes. The chair reminded the board that it was presented and it is in the minutes. Chair White reiterated to the board members that it's important for them to attend meetings prepared by reading the minutes and the agenda. She advised the board that agendas and minutes are emails with a receipt and read tag by the clerk. Further disagreements; Chair is going to end this meeting. I will not be spoken over and will not tolerate this. Again remind everyone that we have to follow town rules. I feel disrespected; at this point I will end the meeting. Much disruption continues. Chair White the conduct I don't like when I get an email at work of disrespect and threats. Com. Interrupts. Chair White states that this meeting was to be a workable meeting. Mayor stated if we had a vote the vote stands. Com. Coates explains the history of EHSY. Chair White - we will deal with grants and Juneteenth and Sounds of Summer and grants. Chair asks for respect, I have found when I don't agree with you, you are offensive, bullying, and aggressive.

Com. McKenzie attempts to explain the event of Talcott Brass.

Chair reminds the commission to be prepared when coming to the meeting and read the minutes.

Chair - I feel that I am being disrespected I will end the meeting. Paying the clerk is a standard payment. We will deal with grants, Juneteenth and Sounds of Summer.

X: ADJOURNMENT:

Chair ends the meeting at 7:30.

Next meeting will be April 11, 2024, at the EH Library in Meeting Room 1

Minutes respectively submitted,
Sana Hart-Clerk