



**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
November 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Roz White called meeting to order at 7:03PM

I. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Aida Ortiz, Amanda Ackley, Tamara Bryan-Chuchro, Michael MacDonald, Joan Coates, Lisa Gold, Thomas Lumpkin, Prescille Yamamoto and Roz White

ALSO PRESENT: Sarah Morgan, Library Director

ABSENT: Glynis McKenzie - Excused
Emilio Estevez - Excused
Susan Tukey – Excused
Lakisher Hurst

Chair introduced and welcomed new member Aida Ortiz. Introductions by Aida and Commissioners.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: October 12, 2023

Chair White notes one correction to the minutes -Paul Bisaccia bill is \$875, not \$850.
Com. Yamamoto made motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Com. Gold. All in favor.
Motion approved.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Nomination period is upon us for a new president - Need to think about nominations. I will not be running.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE - none

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Sarah Morgan, Library Director
 - Access Health CT will be at the Library 11/1/23-1/11/24 on the 2nd floor classroom- for people to enroll in person
 - Internal candidate hired - Malia Hunt and will be running the outreach program-to help people sign up for affordable connectivity
 - Free library on the lawn donated by friends and family of Janet Bernier.
 - New piece of Art –new exhibition is a purchase award.
 - Moving to end of the fall programs, moving into the winter programs
 - Movie – The Bread Winner on Tuesday afternoon did not have much of an attendance, it was a poor showing. Will likely play again.

- Immigration Events –
 - Sarah Morgan provided a list for the commission to consider- commission has funds (\$1700) from Town Council
 - Spring in concert with the commission and the library.
 - Indian Classical Dance group; their schedule is limited; available on March Wednesday evenings; cost is only \$350
 - **Li Liu- acrobatic feats available in April; cost is \$700 @ Wickham Library**
 - Mexican Folk and Dance – **Tere Luna-flexible schedule, cost \$735**
 - Kareem Nagi – **Arabic music and dance from various countries.** Available on Sunday May 5th; **cost \$830.**

Com. Lumpkin asked what's the duration of each performance. Sarah responds typically 45 minutes.

Discussion held – timeframe between March and May. Sarah suggests to book Li Liu as April books up quickly. Immigration events, one for each of the following months, March, April and May.

Com. Yamamoto made motion for Immigration program one for each month- March, April and May, Li Liu (\$700), Mexican Folk and Dance (\$735) and Kareem Nagi (\$830). Motion seconded by Com. Coates. All in favor. Motion approved.

- Native American Culture – October 2023

Indigenous People program – Sarah Morgan was a bit disappointed only 31 people showed. Due to rain the event was moved inside at Wickham Library. Suggestion in the future add the Indigenous People event at Fall Fest.

Holiday Fest -Mid-Winter nights by EHYSF, Dream on Saturday and Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd at Cultural Center at noon.

- EHSYF – Com. Amanda, Com Glynis, Com Joanne

Com. Coates reports that this Tuesday the board will vote on a show. Shows considering, Grease, Mama Mia, Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat. 2024 will be our 60th year. Fundraising event believes it is flowers

- Intl Film Series – Com. Glynis 2023-24
Chair reports that Com. McKenzie has three films.
- Arts – Bell Ringers performing on Saturday December 16, 2023. At Raymond Library at noon.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Projected Projects/Events

Christmas \$1000

Paul Bisaccia - correction \$875

Piano tuning \$175 –pending as not sure if needs to be tuned

EHSYF - \$1500

Chair asks for EHSYF \$1500 to always be on the books.

Com. Gold made motion that we allocate to have EHSYF \$1500 to be recurring on the books. Motion seconded by Com. Yamamoto. All in favor. Motion approved.

VII. NEW BUSINESS: Finance – Projected Projects/Events

Town wide Grants management

Board members must exempt themselves from voting if they are a board member or member of an organization or group request a grant

By-laws – move to next meeting

Finance – Chair goes over budget report, explains movement of funds from line items when needed.

Grant Application – focus on first Pilot of Grant application

Sarah proposed an alternate solution, that if you need help with entering the form online to contact the library. Sarah will assign a staff member.

Grant request from Marianne Mihalyo and Gary Roy.

Sarah requested an understanding of how the commission wish to define Art and Culture. How this application fits into our scope? Found definitions – shared beliefs, customs, dance, value and artifacts. We need something that defines the scope. We need to put that in a disclaimer.

Sarah suggested to include a limited amount of text to answer.

Application discussed – comments

1. Applicant put location of event as the library. This is no accepted, the location as library needs to be established prior.

Com. Ortiz wanted to know will this application be in Spanish? Chair White explained that this is a pilot application. The commission is still working on the application which is in English.

Down the road the commission will work on granting the application in different languages.

Further comments were discussed on question #6 as to how the answer does not comprise of any art and culture but history.

Chair suggests a grant writing workshop may need to be offered.

For next meeting Sarah would like to bring a draft rubric on scoring applications. Suggestion.

Questions not answered correctly. Sarah should split up some of the questions to help applicants.

Chair motion to the board as this is the second submission by the party, they did all this work and we should honor them. Suggested that the board agree to an amount to assist them but request a write up of how their program or event pertains to culture and or fine arts like a speaker on specific topic. Sarah Morgan stated it is feasible to go back ask them to redo question #6.

The Chair asked for opinions from each member. Com. Ackley comments this is more history and not defined as Arts & Culture. All agree with Com. Ackley. Chair-need to refine their answer to include Arts & Culture and guidelines.

Motion by the Chair is to grant the applicant an amount of \$500 if they revise their answer for question #6 clearly express how this relates to Arts & Culture. Motion made by Com.

MacDonald and seconded by Com. Bryan-Chuchro. All in favor. Motion approved.

Sarah Morgan wants to know who the contact person will be. Chair says that she will be the contact.

Sarah will email them and include Chair in email for them to email her with questions. Sarah will also give them a deadline of two weeks before next meeting. Commission will review their revision of question 6.

VIII: APPROVAL BILLS:

Clerk for meeting - \$100. Recurring bill

X: ADJOURNMENT:

Motion at adjourn made by Comm. Yamamoto and seconded by Com. Bryan-Chuchro. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM

Next meeting will be December 14, 2023, at the EH Library in Meeting Room 1

Minutes respectively submitted,
Sana Hart-Clerk