

**TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD**  
**Commission on Culture and Fine Arts**  
**East Hartford Raymond Library**  
**840 Main Street**  
East Hartford, CT 06108  
**MINUTES**  
January 13, 2022

Chair Rosamond White called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**I. ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Joan Coates, Lisa Gold, Glynis McKenzie, Sarah Morgan, Prescille Yamamoto, Susan Tukey, Michael MacDonald, Wesaneit Tsegai, and Rosamond White.

**ABSENT:** Joanne Covey and Emilio Estrella. Excused: Annabelle Diaz.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 12/9/2021 meeting canceled No Minutes**

**III. CHAIR'S REPORT:** The Chair introduced a new Commissioner Michael MacDonald. The chair reiterated the importance of attendance and having a quorum. The objective of a workable commission is meetings in order to provide culture and fine arts events to the town residents.

A proposal received from Steven Strange, President of East Hartford Historical Society and member of the Historic District Commission, for Saturday of the first week of June, 2022. His proposal for East Hartford's Spring into Art Festival – location: Rose Garden at the Seldon Brewer House (1833) and a guide with information and suggestions for this proposed activity. He also mentioned future collaboration with the Historic Society on proposed activities. The Chair suggested to speak with Steven Strange to fine tune the activities and shared costs.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:** The Beautification Commission wishes to extend their deepest appreciation to the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts for helping to celebrate 28 years along with them and made Holiday Fest 2021 an outstanding success. They also mentioned that the Paul Bisaccia's concert was great. Louise from Ken Lawhorn Piano Services sent a note saying Paul Bisaccia's concert was wonderful as usual.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Children Library Programs:** Sarah Morgan mentioned that the Children's Department is covered in art from school display panels in the Children's Room. She is looking into sponsoring a musical kickoff for the Children programs, outdoor concerts, camps, and cultural programs to be discussed with the Parks & Rec Dept.
- **Library Director's Report:** Sarah Morgan will present the Library Budget at the February 10, 2022 meeting.  
There are new hours for the library which include weekends.  
The library started a new on-line program.  
She reported on a grant provided by the Connecticut State Library Grants which will provide at least 150 computers to families in East Hartford and internet.  
She is working on a few grants preparing for summer camp with collaboration with East Hartford Parks & Recreation.

Wickham Library is being renovated, construction has started. Projected date of completion is Fall 2022.

Effie DiBenedetto, a longtime employee of the library is retiring in the near future. The board truly have appreciated her contributions to the town and the library throughout the years.

- **Black History:** The commission has not been able to sponsor a Martin Luther King or Black History Month due to the fact the commission has not have a meeting since April 2021. So will propose at the next meeting some type of festival on the town green
- **Dance:** No report.
- **EHSYF:** Glynis McKenzie commented on the Holiday Fest performance was well attended and enjoyed by all.  
Joan Coates revealed the name of this year's Summer Youth Festival – "The Adam's Family." The commission may readdress contributing to the EHSYF by purchasing tickets so more families are able to attend.
- **Film Series:** Glynis has four movies scheduled. Two movies have already been paid for by the commission in 2020. Dates will be provided in accordance with the State of CT of the Covid epidemic.
- **Mini Grants:** Prescille announced that the receipts at the BOE has received the Mini Grants. She will be arranging a meeting with the Board of Education to go over mini grants funding and usage during Covid.  
She will provide a date for Pitkin School event - New Haven Symphony Orchestra performance will be done virtual to 68 kindergartners.
- **Music:** Prescille commented on the Holiday Fest, Paul Bisaccia's concert was great. The attendance was down for years passed. She thanked Glynis McKenzie for creating the beautiful programs for the concert. The commission talked about reevaluating musical selection to the Holiday Fest and their role in the fest.
- Prescille is in talks with Paul Bisaccia on if he will be offering a free performance in May at First Congregation Church
- **Poetry / Poet Laureate:** No report.
- **Sounds of Summer:** No report.
- **Art League Festival 2022:** No report.

**VI. APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

\$100.00 Judith Beeman (Clerk's Fee) December 9, 2021  
\$100.00 Judith Beeman (Clerk's Fee) January 13, 2022  
\$150.00 Ken Lawhorn Piano Tuning (12/1/2021)

**Motion by:** Susan Tukey moved to pay the bills.

**Second:** Wesaneit Tsegai

**All in Favor:** Motion Carried

**VII. MEMBER'S CONCERNS:** Utilizing more local artist and the usage of the Town Green to engage more East Hartford residents.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Vice Chair Lisa Gold is creating recognition certificates for members 5 years and more on the commission.

- The Chair has proposed a spring festival to be held on the Town Green with collaboration with other commissions and organizations in town with local artist. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Creation of committees
- Reconciliation of 2021-2022 Budget

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by:** Prescille Yamamoto moved to adjourn the meeting 8:28 pm

**Second:** Lisa Gold

**All in Favor:** Motion carried

The next meeting of the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 10, 2021 at the East Hartford Raymond Library Reference Room, 840 Main St, East Hartford, CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Beeman, Clerk