



TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD
Commission on Culture and Fine Arts
50 Chapman Place – Room 12
East Hartford, CT 06108
MINUTES
Virtual Meeting of April 8, 2021

Chair Rosamond White called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: Regina Barall and Terrye Blackstone. Excused are Gloria Visgilio-Lupi, Dan Russell and Betty Russell.

RESIGNED: Judith Okeson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: Prescille Yamamoto moved to approve the February 11, 2020 Minutes.

Second: Joanne Covey

All in Favor: Motion carried

Abstain: Glynis McKenzie and Susan Tukey

- III. CHAIR'S REPORT:** March 11, 2021 meeting was an informal meeting and did not have a Quorum. The Chair reminded the Commissioners it is important to have a Quorum at every meeting. The Town is working on being more mindful and open to including Indigenous Culture and Fine Arts. The Board of Education has removed Columbus Day from their calendar which was replaced by Indigenous People Day. Meetings will continue via 'Virtual Meetings' until buildings are open by the State/Town. The Chair thanked Lisa Gold who made up Certificates of Appreciation and Retired Board Certifications to recognize the Commissioners for all their hard work. She wanted the Commissioners to applaud themselves for their commitment, dedication, time, and energy they had accomplished over the years for the Town of East Hartford. The Chair reminded the Commissioners to work as a team, collaborate with a member, and each Commissioner bring a program to the table.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE: None

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Children Library Programs:** No report.
- **Sarah Morgan, Library Director:** Sarah Morgan announced the library has free WIFI. Since the summer, the Virtual Programming had a slow start and has built momentum. Sarah mentioned that since the library opened, she was pleased to see people coming in for books for their children during the April vacation. The library is short staffed and in the process of a big hiring pool. She is collaborating with the Parks & Recreation Youth Services on an "American Rescue Plan" funding a summer youth program for school age children. The program is still in the early stages.

Sarah mentioned the revision of the Revised Patron Policy needs to be voted on.

Motion: Prescille Yamamoto moved to approve the Revised Patron Policy.

Second: Wesaneit Tsegai

All in Favor: Motion carried

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021 there is a Virtual Arbor Day Poetry Program performing Poems about trees. Need to register library online.

The following week the library's website will have a Job & Readiness program for Ages 16-24.

Sarah Morgan made a proposal to restore and repair the Purchase Awards.

Motion: Glynis McKenzie motioned to pay \$2,500 toward the Purchase Awards restoration of the Art League winners.

Second: Prescille Yamamoto

All in Favor: Motion carried

- **Dance:** No report.
- **Film Series:** Outdoor films were suggested. Glynis McKenzie mentioned it is hard to get rights and costly.
- **Logo:** The Commissioners reviewed the suggested logos and tabled further discussions to be continued at the next Virtual meeting.
- **Mini Grants:** Prescille Yamamoto spoke with Thomas Scavone, Fine and Performing Arts Supervisor for the East Hartford, CT Public Schools. He proposed in his letter "Global Arts Initiative – Request for Funding for \$15,045.95 for drums to the East Hartford High School and Middle School. The Commissioners discussed this proposal to fund the drums.

Motion: Glynis McKenzie moved that the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts pay \$15,045.95 for the Fine Arts Programs within the East Hartford Public School Programs.

Second: Prescille Yamamoto

All in Favor: Motion carried.

- **Music:** Prescille Yamamoto looking into Virtual and/or Channel 5 performance by Paul Bisaccia.

Motion: Prescille Yamamoto moved to pay \$800 for Paul Bisaccia concert.

Second: Joanne Covey

All in Favor: Motion carried.

- **Poetry / Poet Laureate:** Wesaneit Tsegai proposed poetry for Arbor Day and suggested something for the children going through this tough year.
- **Sounds of Summer:** Parks & Rec are undecided about this year's performances.
- **Art League Festival 2021:** No festival reported to the Commission.
- **Art Programs/Demos/Exhibits:** No report.
- **Black History:** Suggestions to recall Alvin Carter, jazz bands, and drums for 2021 -2022 Budget.
- **Caribbean Month:** Town to approve the Steel Band to perform on the library lawn.

Motion: Glynis McKenzie moved to pay \$1,000 for the Steel Band performance.

Second: Lisa Gold

All in Favor: Motion carried

VI. APPROVAL OF BILLS:

\$80.00 Judith Beeman (Clerk's Fee) Virtual meeting March 11, 2021
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\$2,500.00 East Hartford Public Library (Restoration of Purchase Award Winners)
\$1,000.00 East Hartford Public Library (Hartford Steel Symphony Concert)
\$15,045.95 East Hartford Public School (High School & Middle School Drum Equipment)
\$800.00 Paul Bisaccia for upcoming concert.

Motion by: Prescille Yamamoto moved to pay the bills.

Second: Susan Tukey

All in Favor: Motion Carried

VII. MEMBER'S CONCERNS: Utilizing more performances at the Town Green for the East Hartford residents.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS: Suggestions for a World Festival at the Town Green, contacting past performers, look into getting local talent, and Native American speakers.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Prescille Yamamoto moved to adjourn the meeting 8:45 pm

Second: Glynis McKenzie

All in Favor: Motion carried

The next Virtual meeting of the Commission on Culture and Fine Arts will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Beeman, Clerk