



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
East Hartford, CT 06108
Meeting
June 9th, 2022

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joan Coates, Glynis McKenzie, Prescille Yamamoto, Susan Tukey, Michael MacDonald, Emilio Estrella, Thomas Lumpkin, Lakisher Hurst, Tamara Bryan-Chuchro and Rosamond White.

EXCUSED: Lisa Gold

UNEXCUSED: Joanne Covey, and Annabelle Diaz

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rosamond White called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with a quorum.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: May 12th minutes were approved with correction

- a. Correction to add Thomas Lumpkin was present
- b. Edit that Collection Development Policy and Local Author Shelf policy/reconsideration forms were moved in separate motions

Motioned by: Com. Prescille

Seconded by: Com. Joan

All in Favor: Motion carried

ALSO PRESENT: No Guest

CHAIR'S REPORT: The chair impressed the importance of the using the allocated budget or the commission will lose the funds. She understands that with covid and people are beginning to now feeling going out she is aware attendance has been down but we are still meeting our objective of providing events.

Two commissioners asked about being reappointed and who is responsible. The chair will mail out the forms.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Children Library Programs and Library Director's Report:**

1. Sarah Morgan informed the commission that the library experienced an overnight flooding on the second down to the first floor. Luckily no books got wet or damaged.

2. Sarah anticipates the Wickham Library to be opened in October. She is requesting a task force considered of residents like the commissioners. Com Prescille and Com Lakisher agreed to join the task force.

3. Liberty Bell, one of the performers focusing on immigration which has been paid by the commission had to reschedule the performance due to no one registering. It has agreed upon to have the performance done for summer camp when an audience is guaranteed.

4. Summer funding which the library had applied for was not granted, but the town will supplement the funding for the many programs in the summer.

Nelson Bello will be performing on June 25th at 1:00PM

Fall date to save is September 10th and Oct 1st for events

- **Black History:** Juneteenth and Next Year schedule
- **Dance:** Com. Glynis researched the dance group Pilobolus from Washington, CT.
 - "Family Movement Program," \$500 – attendance to summer events is spotty, may try to incorporate into another event.
 - "Balance and Movement" Class for Senior Month @ Senior Center. \$250/class; full company performance is cost prohibitive, perhaps a limited event @ Riverfront or Wickham Library 2nd Fl. (capacity for 60) or Fall Fest (group cost \$2000-3000).
 - Alternative – bus to the Warner Theater to see full company
 - Maybe something in time for the Wickham Library opening
- **East Hartford Summer Youth Festival:** Com. Joan will be playing the grandma in the play.
 - Rehearsals start on 20th for Addams Family
 - Fully casted
 - Parade went well! 1 person signed up
 - No tech director; lost one cast member
 - Tech director posting to be sent to Roz to post online EHConnect
- **Film Series:** Working on next year season
- **Mini Grants:** no report
- **Music:** Commissioner Prescille will speak with Paul Bisaccia for a holiday event.
 - Paul Bisaccia appears to be available for holiday events – Com. Prescille will working on confirming a date and more details.

- The chair has asked commissioner to research and find other artists so we may have a Wintery Night of Music.
- Com. Sue is still working on the bell musician
- **Poetry / Poet Laureate:**
- **Sounds of Summer:** August 4th will be East Hartford Night. The artist is Cover2Cover
- **Art League Festival 2022:** The Art show will be held on July 16th 1-4pm at the Brewer House in collaboration with the Historical Society. If the weather is not favorable it would be held in the library. Rose Garden and tours TBD.

Financial Report: The chair talked about the end of year residual balance of approximately \$4,000+. She asked if any commissioner had a program or idea for us to be able to utilize the funds.

MEMBER'S CONCERNS: Wednesday Chair Roz will be taped for the PBS show Where Art Thou focusing on East Hartford artist, Andre Rochester, and storyteller, dancer and costume designer Grace White.

NEW BUSINESS: The chair suggestion an Art+Wine+Jazz contingent on permission to drink @ library. Chair Roz will research for artist, maybe Andre Rochester + musician. She has asked for all the commissioners to assist her on finding talents for the event.

- Budget TBD, will include ~\$350 for a student artist.
- \$850 for Jazz musician + artist;
- Com Glynis will investigate on crackers and cheese donated by a local business.

OLD BUSINESS: Com. Joan has been discussing with the Manchester theater on group tickets. "In the Heights" at The Little Theatre in Manchester. VIP tickets are \$25 for a purchase of 20 or more. The show starts November 4th. Com Michael asked for a percentage of the tickets to go to the Senior Center.

Motion moved to have the commission purchase 60 tickets, 20 tickets for Friday, Saturday and matinee show Nov 4, 5, 6th by Emilio

Seconded by Com. Prescille

All in Favor: Motion carried

Chair Roz recommended having a writing session for aspiring writers. A session on how to write a story, blog or book. She would like to ask East Hartford publisher and author Dr. John to conduct a session on How to Write a Book. Com. Prescille suggested instead of one lecture/session to have two one practical and one rudiment.

Motion moved by Com Lakisher to commission Dr. Melissa Sue John for a fee of \$650 for a two parts lecture on "how to tell a story" and "how to write a story"

Seconded by: Com. Tamara

All in Favor: Motion Carried

On the pending opening of the Wickham Park in October, a discussion with Library director Sarah Morgan on plans and the need of art for the library. The commission would like to donate to the library.

Motion moved by Com. Emilio to donate the amount \$1000.00 purchase one or two pieces of art (framed).

Seconded by: Com. Prescille

All in Favor: Motion carried

The Library has asked for assistance from the commission on a puppet show for the children during summer. The CT Counsel for Humanities is subsidizing 75% of the cost. The request is if the commission could subsidize the residual 25% of \$300. puppet shows for children – Commission will subsidize - \$300.

Motion moved by Com. Emilio to subsidize \$300 towards the puppet show.

Seconded by: Com Prescille

All in Favor: Motion carried

The recurring discussion of providing the opportunity for all who would like to see a EHSYF play available at no cost. The commission will purchase tickets to distribute through Youth Services, Park and Rec and the library to the public. granting the opportunity

Motion moved by Com Ros to purchase 100 tickets @ \$5 each to be distributed by the library, Youth Services and Park and Rec totaling \$500.

Seconded by: Com. Prescille

All in Favor: Motion carried

The town is introducing a new initiative of a Farmer's Market Pop Up. This will be occurring three times this season – July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20. They would like to have some type of entertainment and food trucks. Experiment to see attendance for evenings.

Motion moved by Com Glynis to allocate \$600 to be used for musicians on all three evenings

Seconded by Com Prescille

All in favor: Motion carried

APPROVAL OF BILLS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motioned by: Com. Lakisher to adjourn the meeting 8:27 PM

Seconded by: Com. Tamara

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, July 14th, 2022 at the East Hartford Raymond Library Reference room, 840 Main St., East Hartford, CT.