



**Town of East Hartford
Commission on Culture and Fine Arts**
740 Main St.
East Hartford, CT 06108-3114

Robert J. Clark

2023 APR 19 AM 11:03

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

East Hartford Raymond Library
840 Main Street
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2023

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, Emilio Estrella, Susan Tukey, Lakisher K. Hurst, Thomas Lumpkin, Prescille Yamamoto, Rosamond White.

ABSENT: Sarah Morgan-Excused

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: February 9, 2023

Motion by Prescille Yamamoto to approve February 9th corrected minutes.

Motion seconded by Lisa Gold.

All in favor. Motion approved.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair Roz White related to the board that there are two more months left for this fiscal year, we need to start thinking of the new year.

A lot is happening this month, the opening of the Wickham Library, Japanese week, and the final show for the film festival.

This commission is not 100% but is one of the most functional boards, we can give ourselves big applause. However, we can bring a lot more to the table.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

Com. Yamamoto received a thank you from the Beautification Commission. Would like to discuss our role with the Beautification Commission regarding paying for the piano tuning for the Holiday Fest. The church has inquired to a board member on the status of the piano being tuned for the next concert.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library report: Read by Chair

- Budget update: the Town Council approved the FY24 library budget with a few changes

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- Request for 1.5 new positions was not approved. Positions (FT digital inclusion manager, PT technology librarian) will be funded instead through local American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, pending request
- Small decreases in printing/utilities budget lines
- Libraries without Borders (LWB) partnership: staff from LWB have been on site in East Hartford this month to get to know the library and the community better before recommending a plan for an off-site library services location (laundromat or similar). As the plan develops, I'll keep you posted.
- Board orientation: Lisa, Glynis, and I met last month to begin planning for a CCFA orientation packet to include both the "Culture and Fine Arts" and "Library" roles of the commission. We will provide an update at the May meeting.
- Wickham update:
 - We've moved in! Movers brought boxes of books and other library materials over to Wickham on April 4. We're moving in this week and next, with our first event on Friday, April 21 (Japan Week opening reception). After April 21, Wickham will "soft open" for limited hours. Follow us on Facebook or keep an eye on our website for updates on the soft-opening schedule.
 - Hours of operation when we're fully open (anticipated May): Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 1 PM - 8 PM
 - Programs and Services:
 - ♣ New and popular books and DVDs for circulation with your library card
 - ♣ Tables for reading and studying
 - ♣ Public computers (laptops) for use inside the building
 - ♣ WiFi
 - ♣ Printing and copying
 - ♣ Digital navigation appointments
 - ♣ Library programs for all ages
 - ♣ Meeting room for community use
 - ♣ Reference and reader's advisory service

Recent CCFA co-sponsored programs:

- Black History event: Jocelyn Pleasant drumming performance/workshop on February 16 at the library was very successful (32 participants)
- Intersections Concert #3 (featuring Jocelyn Pleasant and the Lost Tribe) on March 9 at the CCC auditorium drew a great crowd (126 participants)

Upcoming CCFA co-sponsored programs:

- Japan Week begins Friday, April 21 with an opening reception at the Wickham Library at 4:30 PM and runs through Thursday, April 27 (see flyer for complete program details)

Requests to consider:

- A review of our library program account shows the following unspent CCFA funds transferred from your account:
 - o \$850 for a paint night/jazz night program (not yet scheduled, point person: Roz?)
 - o \$1000 for art for the Wickham Library: the commission voted to transfer these funds from fiscal year 22, but they were not transferred until July (fiscal year 23). Given that they came unintentionally out of your current year budget and remain unspent, I propose returning them to

the commission. If you prefer that the library proceed with an art purchase, we are happy to do so.

- Summer Reading Kickoff funding request, \$800: last year, the CCFA sponsored a bilingual musical group (Flor Bromley and Friends) for our summer reading kickoff event. We hope to repeat the same plan: a concert/outdoor festival held for children and families on the last day of school to promote participation in our summer reading program. We have not yet selected a performer, and unfortunately the May meeting is too late to provide options (event is early June). If the commission votes to sponsor a performer, I can work with a representative of the commission, between meetings, to select a performer that meets the group's standards. Please note that this is the library's final funding request of the fiscal year

Motion by Com. Yamamoto to have Sarah Morgan do something outdoors at Wickham Library to showcase the new library. Seconded by S. Tukey.

Discussion on proposal, members opposes motion, wants money from library returned to be used for funding of EHYSF. Further discussion held on funding EHYSF.

Motion rescinded. No vote taken.

Discussion on budgeted items and what has been funded to EHYSF previously.

Chair read out each line item in the budget for the commissioners. As of 4/13 the commission balance is approximately \$2094 pending outstanding bills.

Board members who have been on the commission for a long period explained the creation of the EHYSF which was once funded by the Fine Arts Commission. Due to funding and its operation cost the town decided it could no longer fund EHYSF. EHYSF was created as its own entity as a non-profit organization.

Com. Yamamoto makes a motion to give from our operating budget the annual grant of \$1500 to EHYSF. Motion seconded by Com. Tukey.

No vote, tabled until report by EHYSF

Motion by Com. MacDonald to transfer back from the library \$1850 to our budget. Motion seconded by Com. Yamamoto.

Motion rescinded.

Motion by Com. Estrella to allocate \$800 as requested by the library for the summer kickoff. The reminding \$1050 back to our budget for further discussion. S. Tukey seconded motion.

Vote 11 for, one opposed. Motion approved.

EHYSF:

Com. McKenzie reports they will be holding a Silent Auction & Cabaret. Date is 4/29/23. They are looking for donations and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, 7 PM. Having a challenging financial time, the Board of Education no longer covering the cost of insurance for productions and shows. They are presently looking for a technical director, which will be a paid position, and additional expense. The cost of Disney Productions is more expensive than other productions.

FILM SERIES: Com. McKenzie reported that the final film The Last Tree (Nigeria) will be showed on Saturday, April 15 at 7 P.M.

MINI GRANTS: Com. Yamamoto reported we are closing the BOE mini grants. She never received a response from the two remaining applicants whose project would have happened already.

MUSIC/DANCE: Com. Ackley reported on the free dance lessons held at First Congregational Church. As of today, seven people have signed up. The program will begin at 11 A.M. on April 29th.

POETRY: Com. Tamara reported on a Spoken Word Poetry Night. The dates are tentatively June or July to be held in the library. Discussion was held on gift certificates vs certificate of an award. Possible donations of refreshments. Budget to discuss further.

Motion by Com. McKenzie to accept the Spoken Word Poetry Night for tentative June/July date encourage her to go forward with this event. Motion seconded by L. Hurst. All in favor. Motion approved.

IMMIGRATION EVENTS: Japan week

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE: Exploring for October

VI: OLD BUSINESS: Japan week

VII: NEW BUSINESS:

Com. Yamamoto reported that Paul Bisaccia will perform for free at First Congregational Church on April 30th. 4/30/23. She asked for assistance creating the program and promotion in the short period of time from the concert date. Chair will also promote with a save the date on Facebook. Glynis will do the press release.

New Ideas/Projects – G. McKenzie has information on a Classical Indian Dance performing out of Glastonbury. Will email the information to Chair.

Juneteenth – will be on June 17, 2023 at Town's Greene. Tabled for next meeting

Sounds of Summer – East Hartford Night. Tabled for future meeting on funding.

VIII: APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Grant to the East Hartford Youth Summer Festival (EHYSF)	\$1500
Clerk Fees for March and April meetings	\$200
Operation Cost for Intl Film Festival (3 films) -John Bacon	\$150
Piano tuning-April concert	\$150
Paul Bisaccia in honorarium	\$100

Motion by Com. McKenzie to pay bills, seconded by Com. Yamamoto. All in favor, motion approved.

X: ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Com. Thomas Lumpkin to adjourn, seconded by Com. Lisa Gold. All in favor, motion approved.

Adjourned at 8:10 PM

Next meeting will be May 11, 2023, at the EH Library in Meeting Room 1