

North Kingstown Arts Council

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 Minutes

Members Present: Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley – Vice Chairperson, Eleanor Acton, Gail Shawn Burda - Recording Secretary, Francine Crete, Gerry Grabowski, Robert Martone, Kathleen McCarthy, Scott Monroe, Paul Pichette, Deborah Sabo.

Excused Absents: Nora Hall, Donna Vanderbeck

Un-Excused Absents: None

Attendees: Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs - Recreation Director, Rose Pichette - Staff Liaison, Ricky Thompson – Town Resident

Call to order: Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson called the Meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6© Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State’s website.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve December 2020 Minutes made by Eleanor Acton, seconded by Paul Pichette. Unanimous approval.

Guests:

- a) Dr. Bonnie Epstein, Director of the *Rhode Island Museum of Science and Art* (RIMOSA) a 503 (c)(3) organization since 2009 – Robert Martone, *North Kingstown Arts Council* (NKAC) Member, asked Bonnie to do a presentation to introduce the Arts Council to the offerings of RIMOSA, and possibly participate in our Art Appreciation Artistically Speaking Series.
- b) Ann-Marie Balboni – Resurrecting *ArtVenture*. We spoke briefly with her at the end of the meeting, since she had left her computer at work, but was conscientious enough to retrieve it, even if only to make an appearance.
 - Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson let us know that Ann-Marie is striving for April 2021 as *ArtVenture* month, to offer a fun activity, for the public to do outdoors.
 - Ann-Marie will be at our February meeting for updates.

Financial Items: We have \$31,896.76 with \$10,833 incumbered (\$2,000 of the incumbered monies includes Sponsors donations for our 2020 Tuesday Night Concerts, cancelled due to the virus pandemic, so sponsors asked that their donations be held over for our 2021 Tuesday Night Concerts season), leaving us \$21,063.78.

- **Motion to approve** the Financial Report, as given by Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimous approval.

Publicity/Website: Scott Monroe received Gail’s suggested corrections to our website’s Proposal Request & Final Funding forms, sent last night.

- New sponsored events of the Arts Council will be advertised on our website.
- February 11, 2021 is our first in the speaking series, with Dr. Rocky Ruggiero, invitations will be e-mailed, two to three weeks before the event and attendees must register, so we can build an e-mail list for future presentations.
- Dr. Rocky Ruggiero will help to spread the word through his social media and will send us his link for our invitations.
- *Eventbrite* was mentioned as a free online advertising venue to post our speaking series, as well as other events.

Projects Proposals:

- **Traveling Down the Silk Road in 3-D: Drama, Drumming and Design - #8383 Liaison: Nancy Whyte Sherman**
 - 1) Sandra Makielski - a 7th Grade Social Studies teacher at Davisville Middle School (DMS) in Town, is proposing producing four shadow puppet performances by the students, for their community. Sandra has done a fine job in the past and the last few years we have approved \$4,800 for the project. Students will be exposed to the SILK ROAD in 3-D by working with experts in the field of Drumming, Drama and Design.
 - 2) Due to COVID restrictions students will work with artists virtually, share a product to be shared virtually, with supplies being sent home to ensure fair & equitable access to materials.
 - **Teachers note:** No 7th or 8th grade student (nearly 400 students), will receive an arts education during the 2020-2021 school year, due to the system put in place at DMS. We have to expose students to the arts in their core subject areas (in this case, social studies).
 - **Motion to approve** the Project Proposal for \$3,947 was made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley. Unanimous approval.

- **Wickford Snowflake Festival & Sparkling Night Parade - #8384 We need a Liaison, please.**
 - 1) Nancy Rafi is proposing a one-day Festival for December 21, 2021 in Wickford, to celebrate the season and bring joy to the Community.
 - 2) Workshops include: Costume making, Crowns & wands making, Ugly stick making & Puppet making.
 - 3) Roaming entertainment, *Extraordinary Rendition Band, Ten31 performers & Big Nazo puppet brigade.*
 - 4) Estimating fifty people to help out and 1,500 people to attend.
 - 5) **Motion to approve** the Project Proposal for \$2,500 made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by James Halley Unanimous approval.

Final Funding Forms: None

Old Business:

- Artistically Speaking Group
 1. Bonnie (listed under Guests), informed us about *RIMOSA's* offerings and how we could use their art segments for nine-year-old's through adults.
 2. Their projects are geared to stimulate participants to: Observe, Be Curious, Experiment & Communicate.
 3. People from one family (during this restrictive time), may rent their Museum for \$5 per person, though they offer Zoom sessions to a minimum of fifteen people at a time for \$200. (They are trying to help the artists make some money). We would choose a theme, the instructor presents for fifteen minutes, the participants work for forty-five minutes and they share what they made. The packets of materials are delivered to the participants, but they are also encouraged to use what they have at home. It was mentioned, at the Arts Council meeting, that we partner with the NK Free Library, so they could display participants projects of Art and Science. This organization has worked with some Elementary schools in North Kingstown in the past.
 4. A lot of information was shared and it was suggested to visit the Museum's website to check things out at: www.RIMOSA.org
 5. A Project Proposal will be submitted for our February 10, 2021 Meeting.

- Nancy Whyte Sherman updated us on the approved project Marker at the *Zeke Harris Playground*.
1) NK Art teacher Mia Thompson will be coordinating the other elementary teachers, on this project. Volunteer Deborah Sabo is the Graphic Designer and is working with *the Wickford Art Association (WAA)*, and elementary art teachers.

New Business:

- Nancy let us know that Member Paul Pichette is stepping down from our Committee, at the end of his term next month. Paul has been a Member since September 11, 2017 and his input and kind demeanor will be missed.
- Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs - Recreation Director mentioned that the Town was creating a self-serve way that vendors & Final Funding applicants can check on the status of their payments. More information to come.
- Robert Martone mentioned that the *Newport Museum* has a speaker series and will give discounts on their Book Club and Virtual Tours, perhaps another way for the Arts Council to collaborate.
- Nancy mentioned that on January 25, 2021, 7-8 pm, on the site: *Eventbrite* you can view: *Rebuilding a City Around the Arts: The History of Gallery Night Providence*. Tickets are free, but you must sign up on their website, sounds interesting.
- The Town Beach marker, will explain its history as a meeting place in the early 1900s for artist/poets. Graphic Designer Deborah Sabo will be consulting with our official NK Historian Timothy Cranston, who is excited about the project. Deborah will be presenting a proposal at one of our future meeting.

Correspondence: Orally, attendee Ricky Thompson let us know that the Town Council decided to suspend Council members acting as liaisons to Town Committees, so we lost our liaison, Mary Brimer.

- A discussion among the Committee members ensued and there will be a letter sent to Mary inviting her to continue to attend our meetings. Chelsey sent her our meeting notification and we would like her to receive our Minutes, so the Town Council is informed of our progress.
- **Motion to invite** Mary Brimer to our meetings made by Jim Halley, seconded by Eleanor Acton. Unanimous approval.

Adjournment: Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.

- **Motion to Adjourn** made at 8:49 pm by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski. Unanimous approval.

The next scheduled Arts Council Zoom Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail Shawn Burda, NKAC Recording Secretary