

## North Kingstown Arts Council (NKAC)

Wednesday, 7-14-2021 Minutes

**Members Present:** Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley – Vice Chairperson, Eleanor Acton, Gail Shawn Burda - Recording Secretary, Gerry Grabowski, Nora Hall, Kathleen McCarthy, Robert Martone, Deborah Sabo, Donna Vanderbeck.

**Excused Absents:** Fran Crete (Fran tried to get on but like the rest of us, Zoom was not letting us on, hence the ten-minute late start, so Fran got onto the other meeting she was supposed to attend).

**Un-Excused Absents:** Scott Monroe

**Attendees:** Ricky Thompson

**Zoom meeting** hosted by Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director

1. **Call to order:** Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson, called the Meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
2. **Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6©** Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's website.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve June 9, 2021 Minutes as written, made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
  - Unanimous approval.
4. **Guests:** None
5. **Financial Items:**
  - Last night's concert brought in \$813 in donations.
  - Nancy Whyte Sherman asked Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs to send out the NK Arts Council Project List without the Contribution column being highlighted, so it is readable. Chelsey will e-mail a copy to Committee Members tomorrow.
  - Renewing our *GoDaddy* subscription for \$270 is needed, particularly since it is a very important social media vehicle for the Arts Council. (In talking to Nancy later she said that we had already renewed our subscription).
  - Motion to accept the Financial Report made by James Halley seconded by Gerry Grabowski.
  - Unanimous accepted.
6. **Publicity/Website:**
  - Scott Munroe is absent tonight.
  - Nancy Whyte Sherman and Scott have talked and feel that our website needs another update and a new person needs to be hired.
  - Nancy and Scott received the go-ahead, from us to talk with companies/individuals they feel would be capable of turning our website into a more user friendly, dependable site. And then present their findings and recommendations to the Arts Council.

7. **Projects Proposals:** request forms should be a NKAC meeting agenda item a month prior to the event.

a) **West Bay Open Studio Tours** - #80399 contact Deb Ferrazolli Liaison: Nancy Whyte Sherman Event date: October 23-24 2021 11 am to 5 pm.

- Deb asked us to help with a sponsorship ad in their booklet. There will be at least four artists from North Kingstown and the Arts Council will be listed in marketing materials with a large logo and be on their website.
- The public will visit artists in their art studios.
- This supports our mission to “promote, encourage and support the visual arts, while developing public awareness and interest in various art forms” This will also give the Arts Council some recognition.
- Motion to approve the requested sum of \$150.00 made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
- Unanimous approval.

b) **Gerry Grabowski** noticed that the *Wickford Art Association's* 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry & Art Project Proposal was not listed on the agenda. It had been sent in on July 2, 2021 requesting \$1,000 from the Arts Council. The dates of the Proposal event are October 6-24, 2021. Neither Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director, nor Nancy Whyte Sherman – Arts Council Chairperson remember receiving the request. Upon further search both found it in their e-mails.

- Nancy asked Gerry if the Art Association needed our answer before our August meeting, to continue with the event prep work and Gerry didn't think it was necessary. Nancy did ask Chelsey to e-mail the Project Proposal to Committee Members tomorrow, so we could familiarize ourselves with the particulars, in case we needed to vote on the proposal before our August meeting.

8. **Final Funding Forms:**

a) **Development of Publicity Materials #80337**

- Nora wants to close out the original account for the development of the Sponsorship packets. There is money left for purchasing future Sponsorship packet supplies and advertising information materials to introduce the public to the *North Kingstown Arts Council* and our works.
- Gail mentioned that she had ordered over a year and a half ago from a print shop in Apponaug, so they should have the reproductive information, saving that set-up cost from a new print shop.

b) **Strawberry Festival** June 2021 - #80396 – Contact: Denise M. Boule - Liaison: Gail Shawn Burda

- Many families stayed for long periods of time & took full advantage of walking the labeled gardens, trails with signage and Castle tours offered by Docents dressed in Colonial attire.

- Children enjoyed making crafts, completing a coloring book that detailed Smith's Castle, hand painting, free pony rides (compliments of a friend of the Castle), Butterworth Marionettes and the popular songs of Jesse Liam Duo.
- Motion to approve the payout of \$900.00 made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
- Unanimous approval.

**c) RI Museum of Science & Art, Drink & Draw - #80389 – Contact: Bonnie Epstein – Liaison: Robert Martone**

- Twenty-nine people signed-up to participate, twenty-seven people attended.
- Objective: to provide an engaging, creative, meditative and relaxing respite for adults, as well as to introduce them to the work of M.C. Escher and to the mathematical art of tessellations.
- Very positive and in-depth evaluations of the program were posted by students.
- They had a terrible *Zoom* issue. The educator has been using *Zoom* for classes for some time, so it wasn't as if she was unfamiliar with *Zoom*. The person who sets up the class will be on call the day of a class in the future. Bonnie offered refunds to the students, but no one wanted their money back.
- The introduction will be slightly trimmed as well as the class will be extended by thirty minutes, in the future, since hardly anyone had a finished product in the allotted time.
- Motion to approve the payout of \$170.00 made by Robert Martone, seconded by Eleanor Acton.
- Unanimous approval.

**d) RI Museum of Science & Art Stables & Mobiles - #80390 – Contact: Bonnie Epstein – Liaison: Robert Martone**

- Eight families signed up, a total of seventeen children participated.
- Objective: provide an engaging, creative, fun and relaxing respite for families as they worked together to create mobiles and stables using delivered materials and a synchronous online class. The children and adults were introduced to Calder's work.
- The children seemed to enjoy the program and almost everyone had a finished work to show at the end.
- Bonnie thinks there should be a deadline of a week before the presentation to sign-up, so the delivery of the project materials to each family's home isn't such a rush.
- We should have asked permission and taken pictures of the finished work, but actually the image quality wouldn't have been as good as when the families send in photos of their work.
- They expected a larger turn-out, but truthfully seventeen was a good number for the two instructors to handle.

- Motion to approve the payout of \$220.00 made by Robert Martone, seconded by Eleanor Acton.
- Unanimous approval.

#### 9. Old Business:

- *Zeke Harris Playground* update: Deborah Sabo is creating the signage utilizing elementary students' art, with art from Gina Campbell, Lori Jeremiah, Betsey MacDonald and Donna Marie Horan from the Wickford Art Association (WAA), which reflects: conservation; pollinators; ecology; Narragansett Bay and artwork. Possibly stimulating career paths.
- James Halley is still in need of a second person to "pass the bucket" for donations at the Tuesday Night Concerts and help is to arrive by 5:30 pm, to direct overflow to the Town Hall parking lot.
- Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director, was asked to have the police arrive at 5:30 pm, instead of 6:00 pm, because people are not happy to find out they need to go to the Town Hall for the shuttle. People are arriving earlier than usual for concerts, resulting in parking areas filling up much earlier for the 7 pm concerts and a police presence helps the volunteers to move cars along. We have two bands coming up that historically draw a large crowd. Gerry Grabowski volunteered to help at the *Brass Attack* concert, but will be away the other concert night.
- More signage needed to direct people to parking and the shuttle, on Fairway Drive, at least one more port-a-john needed at the Town Beach, they have two and the lines were quite long.
- Rose Pichette did a fine job introducing the band, giving James Halley the opportunity to attend to other matters. He asked that someone volunteer to introduce the bands each week for him.
- It was suggested to put a sign on the Band Stand stage, listing the rain dates of postponed concerts.
- The new updates to *Wilson Park* and the Town Beach look wonderful and Yarrow Thorne (Founder & Executive Director of The Avenue Concept), has volunteered to do a mural at the Town Beach.

#### 10. New Business:

##### a) Artistically Speaking discussion on how to move forward.

- Nora said that we offered fabulous programs mostly due to Robert Martone.
- The consensus is to continue offering presentations to the public. Some members weren't sure that they liked that Dr. Rocky Ruggiero's presentations were open to people around the world, but Nancy mentioned that we are offering the Arts to everyone and perhaps non-Rhode Islanders would get to know us.
- When we have offerings for in person classes, different choices will be available.

##### b) Wickford Art Association setting up tables at our concerts.

- Gerry Grabowski brought up the possibility of offering the *Wickford Art Association* the opportunity to have a table showcasing what they offer. They could certainly set up their own table across the street from our concerts, but our focus is to collaborate with others, to promote the Arts.
  - It was suggested that we have a table at the *Wickford Arts Festival* to promote the NKAC.
  - **Motion to approve** the setting up and manning of a NKAC promotional table at the *Wickford Art Festival* made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
  - Unanimous approval.
  - The *Wickford Art Association* is hosting an art show showcasing celebrity's artwork, including art from Kelly Bates (Channel 10 Meteorologist) & Mary Brimer (Town Council Member) at their Gallery.
- c) **James Halley approached Haven Bros. Diner** to sponsor our concerts, with an amount of their choice and they agreed.

**11. Correspondence:** None

12. **Adjournment:** Nancy Whyte Sherman, Chairperson called for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 8:21 pm made by James Halley, seconded by Deborah Sabo.

- Unanimous approval.

**The Next Scheduled Zoom Meeting will be on August 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail Shawn Burda

Recording Secretary