



**City Arts & Culture Commission  
Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 6:30 pm  
City Hall Staff Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and Zoom.us  
111 North Main St., Bristol, CT**

**ATTENDEES:** Lindsay Vigue, Kim Villanti, Andrea Adams, Samantha Buonafede, Juliet Norton, Mark Walerysiak  
**ABSENT:** Bill Stortz  
**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Greg Hahn  
**GUESTS:** Erica Benoit, Parks Dept.  
John Deveau, NECM  
Rich Theriault, Sarah DiVenere, Bristol Brass & Wind Ensemble

- I. Call to Order – Lindsay Vigue called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Public Participation

John Deveau spoke about an event to be planned at the New England Carousel Museum – “A Celebration of Arts” – as a fundraiser. This will showcase the non-competitive local arts.

Rich Theriault and Sarah DiVenere from the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble, spoke about the last planned event which was cancelled. They have not been able to rehearse this year and have only done one small performance. They meet about once a month for planning purposes and look forward to playing again. They have discussed putting on an outdoor concert in early summer at the Rockwell Amphitheatre. They were hoping they can do some outdoor rehearsals. Lindsay suggested that Erica would know what is going on at the park at that time.

Erica said that the Parks Department was meeting this Friday to discuss the events for the upcoming season. She will follow up with Rich and give him the information for this meeting. Possible details and options were discussed. Storage space is needed as well.

- III. Approval of Minutes

**Juliet Norton made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2020, seconded by Andrea Adams. All present voted in favor – motion passed.**

- IV. Page Park Pool Mural Update

Lindsay reported that we have full funding and the artist has begun the work. Erica reported that Josh Medeiros was able to find the additional funds needed. The artist has already prepped the wall and is posting updates on her facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/SugarFox01>)

## V. Downtown Mural Signage Update

Lindsay has just given Kim some needed information. An email will be distributed with the write-up for review. Please review and give feedback for next month's meeting.

## VI. 2021 CACC Focus Projects

- Lindsay liked the picture Christine shared and suggested it be sent to Jared for inspiration.
- Do we want to stay with the large-scale sculpture idea or continue to work with other groups on a variety of projects.
  - Greg Hahn suggested not to use the entire budget on big projects but on annual projects and use fund-raising for the larger long-term projects which need planning ahead.
  - General discussion. Plan on some projects and work on others as they come up. Funds do not roll over and last year was an exception. There should be a review of what is remaining in the budget and how best to use it and decide if the committee wants to do a sculpture next year.
  - The intended purpose of the funds are for something in Bristol in that fiscal year and should not be used as a “down-payment” for a long-term project.
  - Ideas were exchanged and Greg emphasized to think “outside the box” on how to support the arts community.
  - A special meeting can be held to do some brain-storming. It was suggested this could also take place in Council Chambers and the public could be invited for input.
  - Erica reported the Parks Dept. was working on pop-up events in the parks. They could get involved with that if anyone has ideas that would work in the parks.

## VII. MBS Theater Task Force Update

Greg reported that they are now a 501c3 and Josh will not be able to continue with his role. The rest of the group continues until the theatre opens. The City Council has approved the Arts & Culture Supervisor position and it now goes to the Salary Commission in February. Now they are working on establishing the interview process. They cannot do more planning until this person comes on board. They will also be a liaison to this commission.

Greg was very pleased with the architecture plans that he has seen so far. There was a spec meeting with the architect and it is now on YouTube. He will do a site visit and will take photos to share.

Greg also emphasized that the committee members should share whatever they see that is interesting and applicable in the arts. He also suggested that they find other sites or organizations and instagrams and share information with them.

## VIII. Old Business

Retaining Wall Mural: Lindsay reported that Dawn Nielsen has already spoken to Nick Stafko about the retaining wall and is looking to us for concept we believe. Dawn will attend a future meeting.

IX. New Business

Julie reported there is a new director at the Historical Society, Maya Bringe. She has spoken to her about the trolley car project. Lindsay reminded her that we are not now moving forward because of the size of the project. When there is a full-time person then perhaps that is when this can be pursued. Kim added that this is a huge project and does not think that this type of project would be in the job description of the theatre manager and agrees with Mark – this is more of a historical restoration project and too big for a committee that meets just once a month.

Lindsay will try to set up a special meeting for brainstorming and will advise.

X. Adjournment

Andrea Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Kim Villanti.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cooper,  
Recording Secretary