



**ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019 – 6:30PM – 8:00PM
ROOM 101, CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT
AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- IV. ADMINISTRATION**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Special Meeting.
- V. FINANCE**
 - a. Treasurer's report.
- VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES**
 - a. Infrastructure Committee Update
 - i. Mural policy update/Public Art Policy
 - ii. Mayor's Gallery update
 - b. Budget Committee Update
 - c. Communications Committee Update
 - i. Website and social media updates
- VII. OLD BUSINESS**
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Grant
 - b. Emerson Straniti to extend voting membership
 - c. Kadeem Roberts interest in becoming Democratic voting member
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Future Meetings
January 7, 2019 – 6:30pm – P&Z Conference Room**

CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Mark Alan, Chair; Emerson Straniti; Sharon Baanante; Jennifer Bangser; Peter Smyth, Vice Chair; Helen Roman; Janet Evelyn; Robert Abriola (6:38); Nori Grudin (6:46); Julio Pardo (7:23)

STAFF: Sabrina Church, Director of Business Development and Tourism

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alan called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM. A quorum is present.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Alan called the Roll as indicated above.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Alan said that he had emailed everyone the agenda, and he said that that email included the minutes from the last meeting for the committee to review. He said that the minutes were over 10 pages, so he did not make printed copies for everyone in the committee. Mr. Alan asked for any objections to the minutes. Mr. Bangser said that she didn't remember saying that she would invite the Poet Laureate for December 3, 2019 (Page 2, Paragraph 1) and asked to strike that from the record.

Mr. Alan asked to clarify whether it is appropriate for the Chair to make a motion or second a motion. Ms. Church said that it was inappropriate either way and that the Chair should ask that anyone entertain a motion.

*****MR. SMYTH MOTIONED TO ACCEPT OCTOBER 1, 2019 MINUTES AS AMENDED, STRIKING "MS. BANGSER SAID SHE WOULD INVITE THE NEW POET LAUREATE TO A COMMISSION MEETING."*****

*****MS. BAANANTE SECONDED**

*****MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES AS AMENDED passes unanimously.**

Mr. Alan said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2019, and that future meetings occur on the first Tuesday of each month. Ms. Church made note that the November 10, 2020 date happens on the second Tuesday of the month, because of election week.

*****MR. SMYTH MOTIONED TO APPROVE CALENDAR DATES**

*****MR. ABRIOLA SECONDED**

*****MOTION TO APPROVE CALENDAR DATES passes unanimously.**

V. FINANCE

Mr. Alan said that, since Ms. Grudin is not here to give her official Treasurer's report, he asked if this was an appropriate time to talk about the work that has been done on the budget. Ms. Church said that this was up to the Chair.

Mr. Alan continued by saying the Budget Committee met before November 5, when they needed to give their revised budget to the City. Mr. Alan said that, because of their surplus of money, they were able to discuss a "shopping list" that the Communications Committee proposed and other various initiatives for the new year. Mr. Alan said they did a basic budgeting that was turned into the City, but he also said that those initiatives might not happen without approval by voting members. He said they will begin to talk about some projects that they have suggested over the next month and into the new year. He mentioned that the list is still open to ideas and suggestions and that they are not locked in for the remainder of the year. He said this is the starting point (the allocation of the funds, the extra funds, and general categories) and he said that Ms. Grudin could speak more on the subject.

Ms. Baanante asked when they would find out if the budget is approved. Mr. Alan said that if they don't turn in a new budget, the City assumes that they are using the old budget. He said that when he received the new budget, he saw that the surplus had been carried over. He said that the report said they had \$22,000, instead of \$14,000, which means that they can get some extra things done this year.

Mr. Alan wanted to make sure that they scale their work appropriately and they are not setting up for shortfall next year. He said that, through Ms. Church's guidance, they also submitted the budget for the following fiscal year by using the current budget, which was like requesting the extra money. He said they may not get it.

Ms. Grudin entered the meeting and greeted the committee.

Mr. Smyth asked if they had a surplus of \$11,000. Ms. Church said that the usual allocation was around \$12-13,000. Ms. Church said they currently hold \$22,000 because of rollover from the previous year, but they also requested \$22,000 in full for FY21. She said that, by the time the next budget season comes around, they will have already spent what they hold. She said that this runs on a fiscal year calendar from July 1st to June 30th.

Ms. Church said that they were also making a \$50,000 Capital Request this year. She said she would be talking about a Martin Luther King, Jr. Corridor initiative at the City level that Business & Tourism would like the Arts Commission to spearhead, on account of their expertise. She said that the requested funds would be used for materials and implementation of arts programs in the MLK, Jr. Corridor geography. Ms. Church said that she would give them more details, and mentioned that she requested the Arts Commission would have control over the funds.

Ms. Grudin asked about the source of the funding. Ms. Church said that comes from the City's Capital budget, and she specified that one is operating cost (\$22,000) and the other is a capital expense (\$50,000), which is allocated for projects with a duration of a year or over a year.

Ms. Grudin asked if Redevelopment would want those funds, to which Ms. Church replied that it would be Arts Commission money only and that she would be the administrator. Ms. Church said that they would have to approve any operating spending towards a consulting, artist hire, or any other use of the funds that were not administrative.

Mr. Alan said that it was similar to the hiring process for Julio Pardo as their curator for the Ryan Park project. He said that the money came from other places, but that the Arts Commission acted as overseers. Ms. Grudin asked if Redevelopment took the funds away from the Arts Commission for Mr. Pardo's overseeing. Ms. Church said that the money was originally Redevelopments to complete the project which is why they had oversight and control of it. She said that the new funds cannot be moved or used by any other body unless the Arts Commission makes a formal request to do so.

VI. APPROVALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Approval of the proposed Perry Sculpture for installation in Ryan Park and recommendation to the Recreation and Parks Committee of the Common Council.

Mr. Alan began by saying that when this sculpture was last discussed, there had been some insurance issues. He said they had turned to him for information on the Public Art policy, which says that the Arts Commission does not insure items that are on loan to them. He said the Public Art Policy is not an ordinance, and that gives some flexibility.

Mr. Alan says that this proposal went to the Law Department and Risk Management within the City government to figure out what is possible. He said that he thought that once those entities approve the proposal, then the Arts Commission would be able to rule on the proposal; however, it is the other way around. He said that those entities are looking for approval and

recommendations from the Arts Commission regarding this project. He said, on that basis, they will begin to negotiate the insurance and the legalities.

Ms. Church clarified that this project is for a sculpture installation in the park. She said that, in the instance that the Arts Commission didn't want the installation to take place for any reason, it would then go to another committee, like Parks or another appropriate committee with the Arts Committee recommendation attached. She said that it would then go to Council where they could deny it and, if the legal aspects were already done, then it wouldn't make sense to have started that process in legal or in risk management. She said that, if they all agree that they want this, then then the appropriate departments would be doing the legwork for it.

Ms. Roman asked where the sculpture is sitting now. Mr. Alan said that it is in storage now. He said that this sculpture is from Charles Perry and his family, who would love to see it displayed at Ryan Park, which is situated in Washington Village. He said that Redevelopment would love to have it, and the only reason the family did not want to give it to the City is because they didn't want to lose complete control of it. He said they didn't want to see it "wind up under a bridge."

Ms. Roman said that it will need a stand. Ms. Church said that it is on a platform that isn't visible in the picture. Ms. Baanante really liked that the sculptor was from that area. Ms. Church said that his studio is on Raymond Street, which has been there for years. Mr. Alan said the sculptor is deceased.

Ms. Grudin asked if there was any signage, because the sculpture itself would need context for anyone moving into Norwalk. Mr. Smyth suggested a plaque. Ms. Bangser said she had taken some students to the park from Columbus and asked if there was any signage available in the park and, if so, could they explain why things are the way they are.

Ms. Church said that this is an idea that Mr. Pardo had for the doors of the park, because the doors need some explaining. Ms. Church said she didn't know if it was in the plans, but she said that doesn't stop the Arts Commission from taking initiative with their funds. Ms. Grudin said it would be better if they could do it out of their budget, because the Arts Commission has been signing things off that the City owns for years. Ms. Church said that they can ask for something later down the road.

Ms. Roman asked if the loan says how long the term would be, or if they can uproot it whenever. Mr. Alan said that there would be a term length. Ms. Church said they are negotiating the term, but she believed that most things (including the doors and the basketball court) are five years for the maintenance fees as needed.

Ms. Grudin said the City would be responsible for snow and other things. Ms. Church said they will all be sealed with anti-graffiti covering. She said that in the instance of the doors chipping or peeling that they would be contacting the artist directly to complete repairs.

Ms. Grudin asked if the sculpture would be freestanding, because it has sharp edges all over it. She said that it reminds her of an ancient Roman helmet, and she was worried about kids

climbing on it and hitting the sharp edges. She thought it would be better on a pedestal. Mr. Alan said that still wouldn't stop people from climbing on it. Mr. Alan said it looked to him like a weapon of sorts. Ms. Grudin said it looked like the thing the Roman helmets used to have.

Mr. Abriola asked if there was something outside of the plaque that would list information on the sculpture. He suggested the website as a possibility. Mr. Alan said that would be for sure, since they are working on an updated database of the public art collection.

Mr. Abriola said that it would be best on a pedestal. Ms. Church said this is something to bring up to the committee as a recommendation. Ms. Grudin said that it looks like the sculpture is just sitting on the concrete from the picture. She looks like there is dirt beneath the sculpture. Ms. Church said that, to be fair, the grass is about knee-high, about 10 inches from the ground, and they don't maintain it. Ms. Roman said that it isn't showing its best. Mr. Abriola said that they should have it sit on something.

Mr. Smyth motioned to amend the Perry Park Sculpture to include the recommendation to Parks & Recreation to place signage alongside the sculpture to explain the context. Mr. Alan asked if the language should include anything about a pedestal. Mr. Abriola said that there should be a plaque and it should be sitting on something.

Ms. Grudin said that people might not want to go in that yard because the grass is so high and they might be afraid of ticks. Ms. Church explained that the sculpture is situated behind the building and the parking lot on that property, so people don't even know it's there. Ms. Roman says that the area that receives looks like it's got dirt on it. Ms. Church said that it would be cleaned. Mr. Alan said they would have to pour a new concrete base.

*****MR. SMYTH MOTIONED TO APPROVE PERRY PARK SCULPTURE PLAN AS AMENDED**

*****MS. BAANANTE SECONDED**

*****MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED passed unanimously.**

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Infrastructure Committee Update

Mr. Alan then opened the discussion to discuss the list of current projects for the Infrastructure Committee at hand.

Mr. Alan talked about plans for a new survey of public art, which is planned to include photos and to display on the website for the public in the New Year.

Mr. Alan said that they are currently working on a list or inventory of local arts businesses, nonprofits, and organizations for a more complete picture of the arts community. Ms. Grudin said that Ms. Evelyn is working on compiling a list of local venue spaces. Mr. Allen requested

making that spreadsheet (instead of a .pdf), including the assistance of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County as a resources. Mr. Straniti said that he has a current copy of this list. Mr. Allen spoke to Ms. Church about a budget plan for creating brochures and tourism media based off the list, which is available in the Google Drive. He said that the Norwalk Arts Community is vast, but that they don't have a clear picture of how big it is yet.

i. Mural policy update

Mr. Alan spoke with regard to the mural policy draft. He said that Mr. Smyth had done a draft and the policy went to the Law Department to review, where it sits now. He said the Law Department will be making notes and revisions for them to review and consider. He said they are taking a deep look at First Amendment issues regarding regulating content. He said they want to make sure that they aren't passing a policy that would cause an issue.

Mr. Alan discussed freedom of art versus control of art, since the Arts Commission can regulate hate speech. Ms. Church said there was no approval process in place to get these issues to Common Council, and recommended starting with an application process. Ms. Baanante brought up a mural in Norwalk, which is debatably religious, because it features a cross, or the "Wall Street wings" mural that people stand in front of to take selfies. Ms. Grudin also mentioned that the Arts Commission has to take into consideration that religious or anti-religious art cannot be placed around places of worship. Mr. Alan said that the Public Art Policy is designed to enable the Arts Commission to "encourage good art". Mr. Smyth asked if there was a grandfather law to review anything past or present, especially if there is a complaint on a particular piece of art.

Mr. Alan said that he works on the Carver Marketing board for the Carver Foundation. He said that the woman who is the head of it is a Norwalk resident named Susan Weinberger, and her daughter pioneered the mural program in Philadelphia. He said that her son is a mural painter who painted in Gillette Stadium in Boston. He said he was trying to get her daughter to come in and speak with the committee at a meeting on how they got that program started.

Mr. Alan said he would like to encourage murals and even fund murals in Norwalk. Mr. Abriola mentioned the huge murals inside the mall.

Communications Committee Update

Mr. Smyth said that they had a great meeting with great ideas recently. He introduced the Artspeak program, which encourages networking and increases awareness of artists and business to each other. He said they are going to gather 2 to 4 times a year where they will have an hour and a half of networking and cocktails, and an hour and a half of presentations featuring valuable content.

Mr. Smyth mentioned how they wanted to expand the Slow Art project.

Mr. Smyth spoke with regard to the inventory, saying that no one knows the amount of community resources that are available, including the stuff that is available in the basement of the Historical Society or the Wheels place.

Mr. Smyth spoke about the Art Trail. He said this will start as a .pdf, including visuals. Ms. Bangser said this is the kind of thing that supports tourism and humanities, so there might be grants available in the community outside of City funding. Mr. Smyth said that there was an idea to model this project after the Bridgeport Art Trail, where they start small and build out from there. He said this would be an event, as well as something tactile. Ms. Grudin mentioned giving this to area hotels. Mr. Smyth said they would need money for printing posters for hanging in various locations.

Mr. Smyth spoke about the Arts Commission website and its directories. He said that he would be adding a “Creative Business” and a “Music” category. He said he has been in meetings with the IT Department to include a new internal calendar under “Arts, Culture, and Recreation.” Mr. Smyth said they would have to figure out who would support it. Ms. Baanante asked if the Tourism Department would do that. Ms. Church said that she can train her admin to input the data. In response to Ms. Grudin’s inquiries, Ms. Church suggested hiring someone to take photos and update the “Public Art” document on the website.

i. Website and social media updates

Mr. Smyth discussed a new post strategy that involves the use of HootSuite, a content manager. He said they are trying to increase Michelle’s hours, since she only has 2.5 hours to implement this. He requested paying her for 5 hours out of the budget, which would make the social media strategy more powerful. Mr. Alan said they would have to adjust and approve it on the budget side. Ms. Bangser asked about analytics and metrics. Mr. Smyth said that the new strategy involves a \$200 per month investment in boosting posts for select events and calendar awareness for Perry Park sculpture and Ryan Park. He says that HootSuite cuts the amount of time in half and that Facebook requires payment to reach a Page’s own followers. Mr. Alan talked about developing the new social media policy with Mr. Smyth’s recommendations by the next meeting on December 3rd, and how the current guidelines were updated over 2 years ago. He emphasized improving reach and sharing the agenda with the committee by next meeting.

Mr. Alan and Mr. Smyth recommended a motion to allocate a budget increase from 2.5 to 5 hours for the social media control, and include an increase for HootSuite subscriptions, which Ms. Grudin supported. Ms. Church let the committee know that the motion is not possible if it is not listed on the meeting agenda, according to voting protocol. Mr. Smyth said they would include this on the next meeting’s agenda instead.

Ms. Grudin suggested bringing this up in “Old Business,” since the committee tabled the hour increase in past discussions. She remembered tabling it 2-3 months ago.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Alan updated Mr. Pardo regarding the approval of the Perry Park sculpture plan.

Mr. Pardo spoke to the Ryan Park plan, saying that there was a Parks committee meeting scheduled for the following day where 3 artists were recommended for entry into a licensing agreement. He said that will trigger the process. Ms. Church said this would start them on making the doors. Mr. Pardo said this was sidetracked because of the legal contract. He said there was no contract available to hire artists to create the art, so the City lawyers got involved. Ms. Church said that the legal department concerns themselves with maintenance and liability issues. Mr. Pardo said the art will be owned by the City, but reproduction rights are kept by the artists. Mr. Alan said that these processes are really good for the future, because this is opening doors and blazing a trail for future projects.

Ms. Church wondered if there were going to be plaques installed describing the art. She also asked about the slab or the pedestal under the Perry sculpture. Mr. Pardo said that it is currently on a slab of concrete, but the Perry family has specification for the raised base of the sculpture that needs to be poured in. He said it is an 8-inch base, and the Perry family has indicated vegetation to be planted around it to prevent people climbing on it. Mr. Pardo had a conversation with David Westmoreland from the Historical Society, who discussed it, but the matter was not yet settled.

Ms. Baanante spoke with Judith Bacal of the Historical Society regarding AutoCast, who said they are looking at it and she said it's possible to do an Art Trail when they are just tagging the art. Mr. Grudin said that the Budgeting Committee was discussing whether they were going to pay for that, and discussing if other entities were going to pay for their share. She said Redevelopment got out of it. Ms. Baanante said the Historical Society would be paying for it. Mr. Grudin said that the entities listed were the Historical Society, the Library, Redevelopment, the Arts Commission, and maybe Parks & Recreation. Mr. Alan said they are going to pull from the other entities and get their take on it. His opinion is that it should be redeveloped or moved past it. Ms. Grudin recommended that the Chamber of Commerce take it over, which Mr. Alan supported.

Ms. Church asked about a Norwalk app that can involve dining, art, tourist attraction and etc. Mr. Alan said that it would be less useful for locals, and would be most helpful for visitors. Ms. Grudin mentioned it would be helpful for real estate agents who are selling property. Mr. Smyth thought that developing an app was a great idea. Ms. Church said she is having a conversation with Norwalk Now to include such aspects. She said that, because they have that resource, then they could adapt it into something better. She said that it is currently a web-based app and making it available in the App Store would be another process. Mr. Alan described it as a concierge service.

*****MR. ABRIOLA MOTIONED TO INCREASE SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FROM 2.5 TO 5 HOURS, AND INCLUDE HOOTSUITE SUBSCRIPTIONS**

IN THE BUDGET

*****MS. GRUDIN SECONDED**

*****MOTION TO INCREASE SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT CONTRACT passed unanimously.**

Mr. Alan addressed the current gallery situation. He said he had spoken with Ms. Roman about someone from the commission being the in-house curator for the Mayor's Gallery and taking on Melissa Slattery's former role. He said that, now that Mayor Rilling has been re-elected, it is very important that they get a new exhibit into the Mayor's Gallery as soon as possible. He said it has been empty for a few months and that isn't reflecting well on the Arts Commission. Ms. Roman said she was thinking of the antique photographs of the Fire Department and planned to give that to them. She said that she would always like to keep it focused on the community, and always celebrating the people of Norwalk and those who have made special achievements and art of historic houses. She said that they have some good photographers. She said she would like to hire a photographer to take pictures of the extraordinary places and bizarre people around Christmas, so that they can have it for next Christmas. She emphasized the importance of doing things ahead of time, especially when the holidays are coming. Ms. Baanante said that she had to do this research and said that the original intention of the Mayor's Gallery is to celebrate community diversity. Ms. Grudin liked the idea of the Fire Department photographs and talked about Ms. Slattery's work on the carpenters finishing the farm and the house. She said there are four shows a year.

Ms. Grudin suggested including pieces from multiple galleries, like SPAGS or the Rowayton Art Gallery or Firing Circuits. Ms. Roman said that it should be about Norwalk specifically. Ms. Grudin suggested that Mr. Pardo put up photos of the park projects. Mr. Pardo thought of Tony Velez, a posthumous black-and-white photographer whose prints of the people in Washington Village are permanently exhibited at the Museum. Ms. Grudin said that Diane from the Historical Society might have extra photos and prints available. Ms. Roman said that she would call Diane.

Mr. Abriola said that he would be interested in the role, but said that since Ms. Roman had been on the commission longer, that he would support her doing it. Ms. Roman said they could do it together. Ms. Grudin brought up the People's Gallery. Ms. Baanante clarified that the voting committee would still have to approve it.

*****MR. SMYTH MOTIONED FOR MS. ROMAN'S NAME TO OVERSEE THE MAYOR'S GALLERY**

*****MR. STRANITI SECONDED**

*****MOTION FOR MS. ROMAN'S NAME TO OVERSEE THE MAYOR'S GALLERY passed unanimously.**

Mr. Alan requested that Ms. Roman follow up with the committee about the new Mayor's Gallery exhibit via email. Ms. Baanante said that the mission of the Mayor's Gallery is very

specific about cultural organizations and cultural meaning. Ms. Grudin said that exhibit have been done on creative economy. Ms. Roman said that she needs to know about what has been done before, as well as scheduling and timing and the frame for each show. Ms. Grudin said that she would do some research on the topic and that she would be speaking with Ms. Roman about it. The group discussed ad lib about what it means to feature the theme of community diversity in the gallery.

Mr. Alan said this is a standing collection of student work, and every year they do a competition of art in the schools and the winners are introduced into the collection. He said that, in the past, through a negotiation with Susan about Melissa Slattery acting as the curator for the Mayor's Gallery. He said she also agreed to be the person to handle incorporating new pieces into the Sloan Gallery on the 3rd Floor of City Hall.

Ms. Church said that they getting control of the gallery located in the Maritime Garage. She said their curator has left, so the Arts Commission will can have oversight over that site. Mr. Abriola said he would like to do that and Ms. Church said she would forward the paperwork to him. Ms. Church then made note that the Maritime Gallery is totally paid for by the Parking Commission, so they do not need to allocate any funding for it.

Mr. Smyth made the recommendation that the Infrastructure Committee meet to discuss and organize these issues.

Mr. Alan brought up the issue in the People's Gallery. He said that they have allocated the money for the hanging system. He said they are still in a holding pattern because they are talking about moving the People's Gallery. He said they still don't know where or how or when. He said he wrote to Alicia King about it on the day of the meeting, since election time has passed, and hoped they would get an answer soon.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. Arts Commission Newsletter

Mr. Alan proposed a new Arts Commission newsletter that will not cost any money. He said he started a MailChimp account. He said that one of the related past issues involved sending newsletters out from their email account, advising the friends of the Arts Commission of the agenda. He proposed doing this in newsletter format, instead of a mass email. He said the newsletter will consist of a Note From The Chair, as well as items regarding upcoming events.

Mr. Smyth asked if they could get email address from the City. Ms. Church said that there is no email list of residents to share. Mr. Alan said that they have to compile a list from their social media outreach efforts. Mr. Smyth said they would have to do a promotion to capture those.

b. Martin Luther King Corridor budget ask and initiative

Ms. Church described a new initiative in the Martin Luther King, Jr. corridor with the State to do planning for activities in this area. She said that MLK Corridors are historically underprivileged and underserved neighborhoods. She said that they are asking the State for budgets for street improvements, bike lanes, planters, storefront improvement, housing improvement, etc. She said they started having public input 2 months ago, and they will submit their budget requests to the State in December in time for their legislative session. Ms. Church spoke about Mr. Pardo's enthusiasm for this particular initiative and how he felt connected to the project. She mentioned his idea to paint staircases and create traffic box graphics as part of this new initiative, so she asked for \$50,000 for the Arts Commission to control with a curator (maybe Mr. Pardo) as part of the capital budget, along with the cost of materials. Ms. Church said these funds would go towards implementing arts programs.

Ms. Grudin asked if this would include foliage as well. Ms. Church said that the City would be doing that, but the \$50,000 would be specifically for art-related costs. Ms. Grudin suggested a mural on the Frontier building.

Mr. Alan said there is a nationwide pattern that many Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevards are often in deteriorating condition. He said that Bruce Morris, former councilmember, had proposed this. Mr. Alan observed that the traffic graphic box at the entrance to the movie theatre parking lot is completely peeling and needs to be addressed as part of this program. Ms. Church said that David Shockley is paying for 3 traffic graphic boxes. Ms. Grudin and Mr. Alan suggested that they approach Redevelopment to address the movie theatre traffic box.

Ms. Church said there are two other municipalities that have been selected by the State. She said that one of the municipalities is doing a Freedom Trail with plaques along the way, and the other municipality renamed the street extension for Martin Luther King, Jr. She said that the other municipalities are more rural, which makes this initiative stand out and showcase the arts & culture related to the geography.

Ms. Church said that she would know if the budget request is accepted by the end of spring, after which the money would be under the control of the Arts Commission. Mr. Alan asked if the State will look into specific ideas as a part of the decision making process for the budget. Ms. Church said they would just want to have a general idea about the initiative. Mr. Pardo suggested reaching out to companies like UPS and waste management companies that they could also tap into for money. Mr. Alan said that, once a person becomes a curator, they become responsible for that money and they hire the artists out of that money.

Ms. Church said that, if approved, the funding would become available by July 1, 2020.

*****MR. SMYTH MOTIONED TO ADJOURN**

*****MS. GRUDIN SECONDED**

*****MOTION TO ADJOURN passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E.A.Sheils
Telesco Secretarial Services