



**ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021 – 6:00 - 7:00 PM
AGENDA**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone or Zoom. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Maritza Alvarado at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

IV. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 regular meeting

V. COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES

- a. Budget Committee Update
 - i. Finance update – Nori Grudin & Sabrina Church
 - 1. Current Budget
 - 2. FY22 Budget – Operating
- b. Communications Committee Update
 - i. Social Media update – Michelle Rakowsky & Marc Alan
- c. Infrastructure Committee Update

- i. MLK update – Janet Evelyn & Julio Pardo

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Amending the mission of the Arts Commission to include an Equity Statement.
- b. Creating (3) banners + (1) step and repeat for the Arts Commission to use at events in 2021/22 plus miscellaneous printing (creating a pamphlet and/ or sticker, some item to be handed out at events), funding to come out of next FY budget.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Nice Festival
- b. Make Music Day
- c. Art ManiFESTation

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 10, 2020
VIA ZOOM**

ATTENDANCE: Marc Alan, Chair; Robert Abriola, Janet Evelyn, Nori Grudin, Brian Kasper, Jolie Leung Melissa Matuska, Peter Smyth and Emerson Straniti

ABSENT: Matthew O’Callaghan, Kadeem Roberts, Steven Rust and Emerson Straniti

STAFF: Sabrina Church, Director of Business Development and Tourism

OTHERS: Julio Prada

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Alan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Alan called the Roll as indicated above. Mr. Alan said that Mr. Straniti will be stepping down and that Elizabeth Tardif has been appointed and will be joining in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ADMINISTRATION

- a) **Approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 regular meeting**

****MR. ABRIOLO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 6, 2021 MINUTES**

****MR. KASPR SECONDED THE MOTION**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY**

COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES

- a) **Budget Committee Update**
i) **Finance Update – Nori Grudin & Sabrina Church**

Ms. Grudin reported on the financials. There is a balance of \$6,120. She reported they are in good position and there is currently enough funds to cover Michelle and Telesco. The money needs to be used by June. None of the items on the agenda will be spent for this year's remaining monies. Ms. Church has a separate City budget in which to do things out of, business development. With the capital budget she request two items we got 1 but only half the MLK. We asked for \$50,000 and got \$25,000.

ii) FY22 Budget – Capital & Operating

Ms. Church shared her screen and showed the 2021-2022 Capital Budget Appropriations. The other \$25,000 is in the “Arts in Public Places Programs”. The arts program is part of tourism. Most of the capital budget requests were cut in half.

b) Communications Committee Update

i) Social Media Update – Michelle Rakowsky & Marc Alan

Mr. Alan presented on this. There is really nothing to report except for a need for help for the newsletter. It was suggested that they increase Michelle's hours to send out the newsletter. Will continue the MLK project through social media the best they can.

ii) Event Discussions – Marc Alan, Janet Evelyn, MAD Lab

1) ART manifestation

Mr. Prada discussed this project. They are looking to obtain monetary sponsorship to make the festival go forward. He gave a further detail as to the permitting and the additional steps needed. Getting ready to file application. They raised over \$600.00. He is going to share the electronic proposal. They are working with an organization entitled RiseUp. They are also working with Sustainable CT, they will match the dollar amounts. There will be four muralists to compete. There will be workshops and judging. The only issue they have is financial constraints. The new budget begins on July 1, 2021. Someone questioned where the murals were going to be placed in the Isaac Park area. They are looking to obtain \$7,500. Ms. Church is helping with the promoting/marketing of the event.

Mr. Alan would like to have a discussion to discuss supporting events and how much from the current budget. They will table for another time. They would like to support and have booths at some of the events.

Ms. Leung went through how the commission has supported the NICE event in the past, with \$1000, by buying the banners in the past years.

Mr. Alan is comfortable supporting different sponsorships of \$1,000. They cannot discuss and vote tonight since it is not on the agenda.

2) Make Music Day

Mr. Alan is the main person for this event. He would like support from the commission. The remainder of the discussion was passed over.

3) NICE Festival

This topic was discussed briefly above.

c) Infrastructure Committee Update

i) MLK update – Janet Evelyn & Julio Pardo

They do not need to vote on someone heading this committee. With Mr. Straniti leaving they are appointing Mr. Abriola as acting chair of the committee to get it moving forward.

Ms. Evelyn is giving an update. Part of this was a community cleanup which was held on April 18, 2021. There is a list of potential artists for this. There were 25 submission of artists. They are looking at 12 of them. Mr. Pardo will send them around for the commission to look at the work. Then the proposals will go to the community and the Mayor's office.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Abriola spoke about Art Speak. It wasn't on the agenda, because it should go to committee level and then the full commission. He spoke briefly about the project to be held at the Wall Street theater in the summer, moderated and streamed. The Art scene in Norwalk was the proposed theme. Should be great for the commission.

a) Approve the Washington Street Barrier project expenditure with Artist Payments.

Ms. Church is speaking about this. They are going to use previously art work proposed digitally. They will rotate the designs. Pricing quotes will come back this year. The budgets will cover the project. They need to approve the payments for the artist. There are 32 barriers. They are going to select art from the Maritime Garage. They just need to provide a stipend. The Mayor's office only want a few to have constant on the road. There will be an Agreement to execute. They do have the money to cover.

****MR. ABRIOLA MADE A MOTION TO SPEND UP TO \$1,000.00 ON PAYMENTS TO THE ARTISTS**

****MR. KASPR SECONDED THE MOTION**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

b) Discussion on Sponsorship Funding by the Arts commission for 2021-22 events.

They have already discussed up above. It will stay on for next month.

c) Approve the addition of 4 hours to Michelle Rakowsky's contract per month for the NAC Newsletter to begin July 1, 2021.

Ms. Church said they pay her \$625.00 a month right now. Maybe the newsletter should be done quarterly or bi-monthly in order to make sure there is enough content. Her hourly rate is \$25.00/hour. Ms. Church suggested to approve the line item as is, to have a max amount for Michelle.

****MR. KASPR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE
**MS. GRUBIN SECONDED THE MOTION
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kaspr brought up the idea from the ART manifestation earlier. He would like to have the okay to use the Art Commissions logo. To get more sponsors he would like it validated by the Arts Commission. They are also saving two seats for the Arts Commission as judges for the event.

****MR. KASPR MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE EVENT
**MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

****MR. ABRIOLA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN
**MS. LEUNG SECONDED THE MOTION
MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Bromark
Telesco Secretarial Services

