

Town of Washington

Arts Council- Minutes

February 8, 2024- 7:00m

Bryan Town Hall main conference room and zoom

Members Present: Karen Silk, Simon Holt, Tracy Liz Miller, Victoria Rowan

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. Call to order 7:13
2. Consideration of the Minutes of January 11, 2023. Victoria moved to approve the minutes and Tracy seconded. All voted in favor
3. Old Business
 - a. Budget request for FY 24-25. Victoria and Michelle will meet with the Selectmen on Feb. 12 to present the budget request. At the last meeting the Council agreed to request \$7,000 which would cover sponsoring programs for the three town wide events, 2 town wide cultural mailings, and some supplies.
 - b. Cultural District progress- Michelle and Tracy met and made some progress on the application. Everything was put into the google doc so other members can add as they are able. The goal is to set up several work sessions with a member or two so we can continue to make progress. As part of the process, the Arts Council member bios have been updated on our town web-site
4. Old Business
 - a. New Council Member- Victoria and Michelle met with both Audra from the Library and Amy from the Museum and at first they were very interested but then they felt that because they are partially funded by the town it might not be appropriate. We will reach out to the Institute for American Indian Studies to see if they might participate.
 - b. Restaurant Week-Michelle and Victoria met with Michael Ferreira of Litchfield.co to discuss a restaurant week for Washington. The concept will be to tie in the arts to create more of an experience. The Arts Council can help facilitate arts offerings at the restaurants and we will also publicize the galleries and the hours they are open. The event will be co-sponsored by the Arts Council, the EDC and the WBA. The Council was onboard with the concept and discussed having an opening event.
 - c. Calendar for the year. Victoria mapped out the year so we can plan ahead for participation in the town wide events.
 - d. Oral History Project- We will create a document so people can nominate people to be interviewed. Amy from the museum gave us guidelines for the project to work with. The museum is happy to partner on the project and we will work out where the interviews will be archived. The museum has all of the equipment and usually sets up recording in the Connecticut room.
 - e. State Art Hero- Simon and Victoria went to the program and felt it was very interesting and appreciated that the Governor spoke at the event. Stephanie Ingrassia was honored from our region. The Arts Council should think of people to nominate for next year.
5. Sharing of Events- The Frederick Gunn School will be producing Urinetown. CT Theater Exchange will have a fundraising event in April. March 9th WAA will have a member's exhibit opening. Simon's opera company is doing a production that will be seen by 5,000 middle school students and is hoping to do something here in Washington with the Montessori School. The Norman Sunshine

center is working on being able to host events. Victoria is following up on leads for her Imaginarium concept.

6. Public Comment-none
7. Adjournment- 8:27

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Gorra

Recording of the meeting

<https://youtu.be/jDNT7pIYVdA>