

Town of Washington

Arts Council

Minutes

June 8, 2023- 7:00 pm

Bryan Town Hall main conference room and zoom

Members Present:

Abdo Ballester, Fran Keilty, Karen Silk, Victoria Rowan, Simon Holt, Tracy Liz Miller

Visitors:

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to order** 7:04
2. **Vote to approve Minutes** of May 11, 2023. Karen moved, Abdo seconded, all in favor.
3. **Updates**
 - a. Logo contest, need to get the word out. Everyone should share it with friends. We pushed the contest date back.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Review of Cultural District- Trying to get a meeting on the schedule with Steph Burr from the Northwest Arts Council. Will report back next meeting. Need to make an inventory and map. Also need to get a letter of intent. Noted that Northwest Arts Council is having a regional "Make some Music" event Wed. June 21st. This is an event that we could try to help promote next year as well as other regional events. We should make sure all local artists are on the Northwest Arts Council email list.
 - b. Name for EDC Photo Exhibit. Thoughts on WAC opening night event Oct 6th. Theme is Washington and the seasons. Michelle has secured the space and the display frames. She has also spoken with Donna Wright about how to hang. Looking at 16" x 20" mats for 11"x14' artwork. Michelle will also research printing of the photos and will try to get some of the production done in this EDC budget. Michelle also asked Linda our Finance Manager about having an account for the Arts Council. The town is a non-profit organization and tax-deductible donations can be made to the Arts Council once the account is set up. All donated monies need to be used for the benefit of the public. We will need to research whether municipalities are allowed to participate in Give Local. They may have their own rules. The Council may also apply for grants. We discussed communicating with the artists regarding selling the art and possibly making a calendar with the photos. Maybe a realtor could sponsor the

calendar. Fran said calendars still sell if priced appropriately and need to be the right size, wall calendar. Also need to be done by holiday weekend.

- c. Manning "What's Happening" sandwich board on Saturdays. Victoria and Karen manned the first weekend and it went well. We have been OK'd to set up near the e-charger in the Depot but Karen thinks over near the Market would be a better spot. Michelle will follow up. The board will be left out on the porch for the weekend and Michell will put away on Monday. There will be a google doc for sign-up. 10-12 is prime time. We need to make sure we have postcards and brochures for the board. "Town Criers for Good News" Don't forget to direct people to the "Welcome Center" in Legion hall for water, info and bathrooms and parking behind Town Hall.

5. New Business

- a. Abdo suggested a community Arts Celebration where you invite professional artists and make some community art. The concept is based on the Italian "I Madonnari" street painting festival.
- b. There was also discussion of finding an arts student that might be interested in interning with the council and letting them know there will be a clerk position open for the council.
- c. Discussed an Arts Council "Field Trip" to Torrington to see some of the arts stuff happening for inspiration.

6. Public Comment

7. Adjournment 8:20

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Gorra.

Meeting recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxcFclrp1b4>