



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

**256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508**

August 24, 2015

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:35 with Commissioners: Helen Bechard, Mary Burke, Sandy Chaleski, John Cherry, Robert Feinson, Gregory Smith and Interim Coordinator Gregory Wencek.

Mayor Mark Boughton attended and addressed the Commission:
The Mayor expressed his apologies for past missed meetings and thanks for the hard work of the Commission over the years. The Commissioners have a "history of service".

Noted: An earlier discussion of The Ives Authority and the Commission with Charman HCenter.

The Mayor said he saw a joining of arts groups in the City. There are many groups dedicated to the Arts. He observed that the Commission is skewed by age and the need to serve the entire population.

The Commission provides exposure and seed money. To maximize utility, the Commission should work together with the Ives Authority because they have the same goals. The Ives Authority has their mission but both should be merged to consolidate the existing talent.

The Ives Concert Park is underutilized. Some smaller events can be moved to the City Green. Next year there will be more paid events, following the pilot event (Beer & Bacon) this year. Attendance of 6,000 is needed for events to break even. In order to accomplish that, some changes will need to be made to the Ives Street area.

The Ives Concert Park has some challenges: a poor green room (no showers), parking and talent contracts are getting more complicated. There is an increased synergy between the Ives Authority and Western Connecticut State University.

Groups have to talk to each other. A "Charles Ives Cultural Commission" should be established, merging the Ives Authority and the Cultural Commission. They will maintain their current core missions. This merger will be at least a year away. This merger will coincide with other improvements to the Downtown area.

The Mayor answered questions and listened to comments from the Commissioners regarding his plans. Commissioner HBechard echoed the sentiment of the Commission, that the Mayor include a representative from the Commission in his discussions about the future of the culture/art in the City going forward. The Mayor agreed. The result is no changes to the Commission will take place at this time.

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August 24, 2015
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Presentation of Minutes

Moved by RFeinson to accept the Minutes of the July meeting, as corrected seconded by GSmith. SChaleski observed that the minutes should include the meeting date, on top and the amount requested, as well as the amount awarded should be recorded. Passed by majority vote, HBechard abstained.

There was no Correspondence, Reports on Commission events or Other business.

Appeals from Community groups:

Connecticut Ballet requests \$3,500 for The World of Dance - 2016 In-School Assembly program
Brett Raphael presented his request for the Connecticut Ballet

All schools participated last year (a welcome change as some schools did not participate in the past). This year the program demonstrates "The world of Dance" is bigger than ballet. Five dancers present a 50 minute program including Brazilian Samba, Japanese, Irish Step, Flamenco, and Indonesian dance. With consideration for CMT and other school events, the program should run late in the school year (spring).

Danbury Brass Band requests \$300 for the Nov 1, 2015 concert

Alan Raph presented his request for the Danbury Brass Band

Their concert will be on November 1st at the Danbury Music Centre this year (not on Halloween at Tarrywile, as past years).

Obey Foundation, DBA Drums 4 Life requests \$2,500 for High School programs

Programs will be at the High Schools this year (DHS and ACE). The focus is on Special Ed but all students are encouraged and welcome. The program usually includes instrument making, from sometimes growing the gourds to the final, finished shakerai.

Moved by GSmith to Award \$2,000 to Obey Foundation seconded by HBechard, .

Discussion on the amount of the award. Amended to award \$1,500 accepted by GSmith and HBechard. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Moved by HBechard to award \$300 to Danbury Brass Band seconded by RFeinson.

Passed by unanimous vote.

Moved by JCherry to award \$3,000 to Connecticut Ballet seconded by GSmith.

Passed by unanimous vote.



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Old Business:

Hiring a Coordinator - Job description.

A job description was drafted by HBechard and GWencek and presented to the Commissioners. Some changes from GSmith and other Commissioners were discussed and accepted.

Moved by JCherry to accept final draft, seconded by SChaleski. Passed by unanimous vote. (Job description to be sent to the Director of Human Resources and any other appropriate people.)

Moved by SChaleski to hire Gregory Wencek as the Danbury Cultural Commission Coordinator at \$900.00 per month starting in September, seconded by RFeinson. Passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Wencek will have to meet the City Human Resources requirements and will resign as Commissioner prior to starting as Coordinator.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 by BFeinson. Passed by unanimous vote.