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CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

August 24, 2020

Minutes of the Meeting

The Meeting called to order, as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: Helen Bechard, John Cherry, John Cooke, Ed Moore, Cheryl Hill, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Richard Aronson, Mary Burke. Public: Sandy Chaleski.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the July meeting were presented. A motion by GSmith to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by JCooke.

Correspondence

eMail: RECEIVED - nothing more than notice emails
SENT: none
Mail: none
Phone: none

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Events SPORADIC Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7PP
- Musicals at Richter

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
- Danbury Museums
  - Historical Society - *The Fair That John Built* February 1 - December 19, 2020
  - The outdoor exhibit panels are installed. Stop by and have a look at these colorful images from your favorite fair.
- Palace Theater Danbury
- Galleries
  - Gallery at Still River Editions
  - @287 287 Main St. Danbury
  - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
- Accessible Art
  - City Hall,
  - CityCenter Danbury,
  - Hodge Insurance,
  - Filosa Convalescent/Hancock Hall,
  - Bethel Public Library, Terrence Tougas - artistic expressions the elements
- Danbury Library

Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com
EVENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESUME DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC.

Coordinator's Report

1. Clean up of past records.

HBechard asked how that is being done. The files are almost exclusively digital. All paper is scanned into a PDF and files are stored in the City "Google Docs" system and the Commission computer is backed up to the City IT shared server drive for common files and backups.

2. Last Meeting HBechard said Commissioners should think about allocation of funds in light of last year some groups didn't get their full season. How will the Commission prorate funding?
    a. COORDINATORS OPINION: The Cultural Commission should focus on strengthening Cultural groups and help get them "back on their feet". This must be more than inserting dollars directly into the institutions. This must be about driving patrons into venues, growth through exposure.
    b. A potential method could be a "Passport" of events. Patrons show that they have attended some number of Cultural Commission event and they receive a gift certificate for goods or services from participating city businesses or not-for-profits.

Appeals from Community groups:

Danbury Music Centre.

Old business

Brochure: The Coordinator asked where the physical brochure will be distributed. The Commissioners asked the coordinator to review how to turn the brochure into an on-line form like a virtual magazine.

New Business

Funding procedures in FY2020-2021 (see HBechard question)
HBechard: Commissioners should think about allocation of funds in light of last year some groups didn't get their full season. How will the Commission prorate funding?
A plan to change the ratio of funding to reduce offering sustaining grants to 45% of the budget and put 20% into growing audiences was discussed. Action is tabled until next meeting.

Action on Grant Requests:

1. Danbury Music Centre, Barbra Jaeger, Executive Director, requests $25,000

The Music Centre is working on bringing musicians together in very small groups and with no in-person singing or wind instruments. As many as 10 on-line events as possible will be produced. A weekly Podcast is also in the works. A committee is exploring the technical issues expected to be encountered. The Executive director has been participating in D.R.E. a state sponsored program to bring arts organizations back in the COVID19 times.

Commissioner GSmith asked how the Music Centre will capture an audience. BJaeger answered through their news letter and social media, such as Facebook "Boosts" advertising.
There will be no Nutcracker this year. Including all City funding, the Nutcracker turned a profit of $13,000.

Action on Grant Requests: Danbury Music Centre, requests $25,000. Moved by HBechard to grant $10,000 seconded by CHill.
DISCUSSION: HBechard said her amount was derived by taking 65% of last year's grant. .
CALLED: The Motion passed for $10,000.00 by unanimous vote.

Other Business

1. Commissioner JCherry asked who is funding the Marian Anderson mural. No Commissioner had direct knowledge. Chairman HCenter stated the Mayor had not contacted him about the project. Commissioner JCooke indicated that the Savings Bank of Danbury was involved in the funding and he will inquire for more information.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30

Made by HBechard. Passed by Unanimous vote.

NOTE:
Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office has set up a video conference call which will start at 6:00 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public should connect to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86508955735 Meeting ID: 865 0895 5735 and no password. Or call 929 205 6099 and use Access code: 848 3237 9394 and no Password. The meeting will start at 6:30 as usual.