

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Town Hall, room 309

Attending: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Frederic Chiu, John Dodig, Sandy Lefkowitz, Deirdre Price, Wendy Morgan-Hunter and Elizabeth Strick.

Absent: Eric Chiang, Lee Goldstein, Kelle Ruden and Carole Schweid.

AGENDA:

1. TEA Talk

Sunday, October 29th. The theme for social change.

- Carol has reached out to David Roth at Staples to see if the students could perform a 20-minute segment from a play reflecting social change. Possibilities: The Laramie Project, Falsettos, with David as a panelist at the event. Carole has not heard back from David Roth, John will also try to reach him.
- Other suggestions were, Ann Chernow and Tracy Sugerman. Both have produced art work dealing with the civil rights movement and social change
- Mark Yurkiw, artist, designer and video film maker who produced the Statue of Liberty draped in a coat for the "NY Cares Coat Drive". Miggs will speak with him.
- Frederic suggested the writer, Erica Jong who lives in Weston. Author of, A Fear of Flying, and A Fear of Dying.
- Richard has had preliminary talks with Robert Batteau, singer songwriter and jingle singing producer.
- Sandy suggested Nile Rogers. Richard will follow up.

2. WestPac update

A 25-page document for the collection has been sent to the BOE for approval. Work from the Town collection will be on display in the WAC exhibition, "From Main Street to Madison Avenue". Also from the collection, "Danbury Road" is on view at the Historical Society exhibition, "The British Are Coming"

Friends Group have raised over \$3,000 for the collection and are planning a fund raiser on June 5th at Reve Balto. Tickets \$90 a person and will include a silent auction.

Linda Gramatky Smith has donated paintings of Westport by her late Father, Hardy Gramatky to the Town collection.

Library art move. The WAC, Lets Connect Group of artists will help pack and label art to go into storage during the Library's renovation.

Help is needed to check location of all art work in the collection in all the schools and Town Hall. This is done every year. Kathy will be sending sign up information to all committee members.

3. Norwalk Arts Commission Nancy reported on sitting in on the meeting of the Norwalk Arts Commission. They have been successful in reaching out to non-arts organizations to include arts components in their programs; e.g. holding art watercolor classes as part of a nature trail walks. The mobile app, Otocast makes it easy for the public to explore the cultural activities available in Norwalk using their phones as a guide.

Committee felt the Otocast app could be used in Westport to link the public to art, music and theater, along with locations and happenings around town.

4. Saugatuck Project.

A committee is looking into improving the area by the rail road station at Exit 17. WAAC would like to be part of the conversation. Nancy will look into joining their next meeting. The Saugatuck Project has a survey on line, Gatewayforwestport.com which we should all explore.

5. A policy for public art in Westport

Should be established. Kathie will look into it and Sandy will research other Community art policy's. This would give guidelines for the placement of public artworks that might be considered whenever applications for public planning or construction is anticipated.

6. Addition to agenda.

Nancy asked that we consider a request from the Westport Arts Center WAC to write a letter of recommendation supporting WAC's application to the Town for moving the Arts Center to Barons South. The committee felt WAC's presence at Barons South was appropriate. They would be a responsible tenant, would be a close neighbor to the Senior Center, offer storage for work not on display from the Town's collection and give the Arts Center more space for programming, exhibitions, performance and teaching, all of which would be available to the Community

Vote. All present were in favor for WAAC to write a letter of recommendation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm

CHANGE OF DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, MAY 16 AT 12 NOON, ROOM 309

Elizabeth
Secretary