

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday June 13, 2017

Town Hall room 309

Attending: Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, John Dodig, Lee Goldstein, Sandy Lefkowitz, Wendy Morgan Hunter, Kelle Ruden, Carole Schweid, Elizabeth Strick.

Absent: Nancy Diamond, Deirdre Price.

Attendee: Dick Lowenstein

THE NEXT WAAC MEETING IS TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017, TOWN HALL ROOM 309

AGENDA:

1. WAC move to Barron South update

The Westport Planning and Zoning commission was not receptive to the plan in a public meeting, however the issue is not closed. WAC is continuing discussions with the Town. At a meeting Wednesday, June 14 at 8:30am, Town Hall room 309, Bill Achilles, a planner hired by the town, will report on the Barron South property and its structures as requested by the Town. The meeting is open to the public to observe.

2. Saugatuck update

John reported on attending as an observer at their last meeting. The Bridge repair took up most of the meeting. Other subjects under discussion included enhance the "pedestrian experience", upgrading park and sidewalks, no additional commuter parking, better patron parking and promotion for local businesses, and establishing a regulatory framework for the enhancement of the area.

3. Otocast update

Miggs researched Otocast; his report is attached. It includes information on setting up Otocast in Town, related costs, research and audio.

After much discussion, the committee decided to allocate \$6,000 to initiate the project.

Sandy Lefkowitz, made a motion that we work on establishing Otocast during the next fiscal year 2017/2018. Second, Kathie Bennewitz. All in favor.

4. Friends of WestPAC fundraiser

The evening was a huge success and raised \$8,000 for the collection.

Kathie reported on the allocation of \$10,000 from WAAC to WestPAC part of which is to be used to repair and conserve the portrait of Horace Staples and the Seymour Fogell oil painting. \$2,000 of the allocation is to go to purchasing 400 special art hanging systems.

A budget is being put together for two teachers to develop curriculum in the arts. \$2,000 is needed for the project.

Kathie reported that reps are needed in the schools as are leadership co- chairs. She will be sending the committee the list of candidates to choose from. A paper list will be filed with the minutes.

An inventory of art work was taken in all schools. The database needs updates and someone to run it. It's anticipated to be a ten hour a week job with a suggested pay of \$22 an hour. All suggestions for candidates are welcome.

The school principals and head custodians should have knowledge of what art work is in their school. It was suggested that the head custodian could be the go to person when work is to be replaced or removed.

5. WestPAC update and Public Art Policy

Moved to July meeting.

6. TEA Talks

Kelle reached out to Nile Rodgers wife, Nancy Hunt, from the We Are Family Foundation, about she and her husband's participation.

Kelle also suggested Harris Durrani, Pulitzer prize winning author, but has yet to make contact.

John spoke with David Roth at Staples, he declined the invitation due to just starting a new production. Kelle suggested Paula Vogel at Yale, and Mark Lamos at the Playhouse. Sandy suggested David Kennedy at the Playhouse. Kelle and Sandy will research.

Miggs confirmed Mark Yurkiw will be part of the event.

Richard reported that Robin Batteau is feeling better and is a possible back-up for a possible music component

Once speakers are confirmed, visuals will be needed and should be sent to Miggs.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:25 pm

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, JULY 11, AT 12 NOON ROOM 309

Elizabeth Strick
Secretary

Eric Feinstein, creator for Otocast has lowered the minimum number of “stops” we can have, from 60 to 50 in order to qualify for the reduced rate of \$100 per stop per year. The rate goes down to \$60 per stop after the first year, with all updates, and corrections, accepted at no cost.

He also said that if we committed to having 50 stops eventually, he would only charge us \$100 per stop for the first 10 or 20 we publish.

Our committee will need to assign someone or a small team to produce the descriptive text, audio and 5 images to use for each stop on our Westport Arts Tour.

He also allowed that in order to offset our costs we could sell some of our stops for \$100 each to other arts-related, or otherwise worthy individuals and/or organizations. They would be on our “tour” so need to be curated carefully. We could add a surcharge if we offer to produce their stops for them.

We can still solicit a sponsor or two, but we split the proceeds with Otocast. The difference between getting a sponsor and selling our stops, is that the sponsor could potentially underwrite all our stops for \$5000, but 50% goes to Otocast.