

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Town Hall room 309

Attending: Nancy Diamond, Richard Epstein, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Frederic Chiu, Sandy Lefkowitz, Wendy Morgan Hunter, Deirdre Price, Kelle Ruden, Elizabeth Strick

Absent: John Dodig, Eric Chiang, Lee Goldstein and Carole Schweid

Guests: Susan Wallerstein, Chair, Norwalk Arts Commission and Judith Bacal, project manager for Otocast, Norwalk.

**THE NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017, TOWN HALL ROOM 102
PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGE**

AGENDA:

1. Otocast:

Nancy welcomed Susan and Judith to the meeting. Susan gave the committee a rundown of how they approached the setup of Otocast in Norwalk. With a group of volunteers, they developed 5 walking tours with 60 points of interest, 4 geographical locations and 1 WPA location. A budget of \$6,000 was secured.

Judith Bacal was hired as project manager, and is the interface with Otocast. Judith solicited 180 organizations to be on the tour. A deadline for submission was set. Once the introduction was recorded, it along with image of the art work was complete. Judith maintained a spread sheet of all the collected information, which was shared with the committee. The project was completed within 9 months. A launch event for Otocast was held at City Hall, it included a tour of the WPA art in City Hall and a walking tour to the Green, viewing sculpture along the way.

More discussion followed, and an Otocast sub-committee formed with Miggs, Deirdre and Richard. Eric also indicated {although absent} that he would be interested in working on the project.

Nancy contacted Melissa Kane, head of a committee that was investigating a kiosk information center and a possible app and advised her of our initiative.

2. TEA Talk:

Kelle reported that Nile Rodgers was interested in being part of TEA Talk. She is waiting to hear back from him once his Fall schedule is in place.

Kelle also heard from Harris Durrani, the Pulitzer prize winning author. He is available and might be a candidate for a Horizon award.

The committee also had a positive reaction to having Michael Barker, Managing Director from the Playhouse, participate.

Kelle suggested Joe Myers as facilitator; Nancy suggested that Harris and Michael be in conversation with Kelle at TEA Talk.

3. WestPAC

On June 30th WestPAC met with superintendent of Schools to present the collections management proposal.

It is hoped that the BOE will approve the management proposal in early Fall.

WestPAC would like to make a virtual tour of the collection in each school, to be put on video for the teachers use.

Volunteers are still needed in each school, as is a data entry person for the collection.

4. Town Public Art policy

Still needs a process and a set of criteria for accepting work into the collection.

Judy Droller is the point person for the collection.

Board of Ed and Public Art Policy is still needed

Kathie will form a sub-committee to review potential donations to the collection.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm

Elizabeth Strick
Secretary

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, AT 12 NOON, ROOM 102