

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 14, 2020
12 noon, Town of Westport recorded ZOOM call.

Present on call: Co-chairs Nancy Diamond and Richard Epstein, and committee members, Kathy Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, Frederic Chiu, John Dodig, Deirdre Price, Carole Schweid, Elizabeth Strick.

Not participating: Lee Goldstein, Deirdre Kelly,

Guests: First Selectman, Jim Marpe, Remarkable Theaters leaders, Doug Tirola and Marina Derman, and Westport Poet Laureate, Diane Lowman.

Nancy opened the meeting by announcing that Kellie has resigned after being with WAAC for two years. She will be joining the advisory council of the Westport Playhouse.

1. Re-opening Westport:

Nancy introduced guests, Doug Tirola and Marina Derman leaders of the drive-in Remarkable Theater. The drive-in theater has been very successful with all films sold out and will continue to operate through August. Marina reported that all movie goers have been respectful with social distancing. A number of community groups have inquired about collaborations, and they had received requests from other towns on how to start a drive-in movie theater. The Remarkable theater has received a grant from the state and one private individual. The Drive-in employs people with disabilities who greet, check tickets and direct cars.

2, Otocast:

Clean up just about complete along with added titles and larger type. Richard is to meet with the Town on how Otocast can be incorporated into the Town's web site. With many new residents moving into Westport the Realtors are to be approached. Richard will speak to Doug about the possibility of a short promo Otocast video to introduce "Discover Westport" This video would be screened before a movie at the Remarkable Theater. Script ideas for promo video to be sent to Miggs, Diane has written a Haiku.

3. Rock Paper Scissors:

The RTM has accepted the sculpture, "Rock Paper Scissors" to the Town Art Collection. It will be installed near the entrance to the Library once the Zoning Board of Appeals approves the location.

4. WestPAC:

The estate of Steffi Friedman has donated a bronze sculpture "Pas de Deux" which will be placed in the Staples HS courtyard.

John Dodig asked if any sculpture was being considered for the Saugatuck area. Jim Marpe responded that due to Covid19 all revitalization projects were on hold.

Coleytown School would like to have a sculpture of their mascot. This is a PTA driven project. Further review needed.

Kathie reported that the Public Art Policy for the Town Art Collection is still being worked on.

5. Possible new Committee members:

Nancy and Richard suggested we consider Doug Tirola for the committee. Any other suggestions for new committee members should be sent to them.

Diane Lowman asked who would be her point person on the committee now that Kelly has resigned. Diane would like to see poetry around town. Possible low-cost ideas were, signs as you enter Compo Beach and in the planters on Main Street. Nancy will check with P&Z and Miggs offered to create the signage which would include the WAAC logo. John will install.

Other ways to use poetry would be to incorporate Haiku into an organizations marketing. Suggested publications for an article on poetry, The CT Explorer.

THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CANCELED. WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm
Elizabeth Strick
Secretary

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