

WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 12, 2016
Town Hall, room 309

Present: Nancy Diamond, co-chair, Richard Epstein, co-chair, Miggs Burroughs, Frederic Chiu, Sandy Lefkowitz, Deirdre Price, Elise Russi, Elizabeth Strick.

Absent: Kathie Bennewitz, Ann Chernow, Katherine Ross, Carole Schweid, Ann Sheffer.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 AT 12 NOON, TOWN HALL ROOM 309

In an effort to fill two openings on the committee, Nancy and Richard are meeting with the following.

1. Eric Chang, artist, former, tech consultant at Goldman Sachs, member of Silvermine and Westport Arts Center.
2. PTA Cultural Arts president
3. Mark Mathias, BOE member, technology executive and the Mini Maker Fair originator.

Other possible candidates discussed to pursue were in the literary field; are, Jane Green and Tessa Smith McGovern, both best selling authors and Lauren Weisberger, author of a number of books including *The Devil Wears Prada*.

1. Report on Kiosk App meeting.

Sandy recently attended a presentation by Eric Feinstein on “Otocast” an App that provides a platform and services for mobile audio guides that is easy to use and implement. The App could be used and funded by individual sponsorship from organizations, the Town, Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Merchants to name a few. Each pin would cost \$120 a year plus maintenance. Sandy will share this information with Mellissa Kane who is working on the Kiosk project; the Otocast App could also be used in the Kiosks.

2. Report on WSPAC.

Nancy and Kathie met with Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County to explore the possibility of the Alliance becoming the fiscal sponsor of WSPAC. This would relieve WSPAC of their fiduciary responsibilities, tax filling etc. A standard fee would be charged for the service. WSPAC would still be able to raise money for their collections through the Alliance’s 501C3 status. Any monetary gifts to WSPAC would be made to

the Alliance and funded back to WSPAC. Kathie is waiting for a proposal from the Alliance with details.

3. Report on Auditorium.

Sandy reported, that the black out window shades for the auditorium would cost \$15-\$20,000 including installation. The shades would be operated by a remote.

Richard reported, that an audio system for the auditorium including installation would cost in the region of \$25 – \$30.000

Sandy and Richard will put a proposal together to present to the First Selectman.

4. Discussion of website and database.

All felt the proposed Otocast App could be linked to the WAAC website which includes the three TEA Talks, the archive and artists. This would make the activities of WAAC more available to all. Committee was unanimous on the idea.

Next months meeting will include further discussion on the next TEA Talk, which is to be held on Sunday, October 23, at 2 pm. Also for discussion the Horizon award and possible new candidates for the committee.

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FEBRUARY 9 AT NOON, TOWN HALL ROOM 309**

Elizabeth Strick
Secretary