

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at Town Hall room 201

Present: Nancy Diamond , Shobana Mani, Kathie Bennewitz, Richard Epstein, David Rosenwaks, Britt Steel, Elizabeth Strick.

Unable to attend: Miggs Burroughs, Eric Chiang, Lee Goldstein, Jessica Noyes, William Palmer, Charles Rosoff, Dina Upton. Ive Covaci [WestPAC]

Guest: Pam Kesselman

Co-Chair Nancy Diamond opened the meeting at 12:10pm

Nancy reported that, upon request, new member William Palmer's bio would be sent to the committee.

Downtown Walkway signage: David

David reported that the signage for each artwork was complete. David and Nancy will meet with the installer to establish the position of each sign by the artist's work and the placement of the introduction sign. Still needed a sign for the entry to the alley, if David Waldman will approve.

Lets' Connect: Nancy and Shobana

The scheduled meeting in January was cancelled due to a poor response. After discussion it was decided that a questionnaire with both date and idea boxes would be sent to the Let's Connect list so we can gauge continuing interest in social media. Also dates for an all-group meeting, preferably themed. Shobana will put a letter and survey together and send out.

Outdoor Sculpture: Kathie

"Passages" by Niki Ketchman will be installed in Pasacreta Park in April. A meeting will be held at Niki's home with the installers on April 1 so they can see her work. They will then go to the site and mark the placement and direction of "Passages." WAAC will provide a truck to move the work and public works will dig a foundation trench. Once installed, gravel will be placed around the work. Installation will take place April 17 and the dedication of "Passages" on Wednesday, May 1st at 5pm. Nancy sent a note to Jen Tooker asking her to hold the date.

"Windows" by Carol Eisner. After discussion, it was decided that due to the high cost of transportation, the installation of eight pylons to support the work and the high insurance costs the project had to be tabled. The real deal-killer was that Carol insisted she could sell the piece at any time it was on loan, sticking us with the huge cost of installing it. Nancy asked for a vote, Richard Epstein so moved and Britt Steel seconded, all were in favor.

The committee will continue to search for work. Dina and Kathie already have a few options. Another possibility mentioned was artist Emily Teall, whose work sits outside the Norwalk Arts Space.

Poet Laureate search: Britt.

Jessica's term ends June 30. Britt revised the PL application and press release and has confirmation on all but one judge to review the applicants. She asked for suggestions for places to post the call for submissions. The Cultural Alliance newsletter was suggested. Also discussed was opening up the process to more communities to get a greater response, but ultimately declined. It was decided to ask Miggs to generate a flyer encouraging submissions to be posted around Westport.

WestPAC: Kathie

Kathie would like those interested to meet separately to discuss our future collaboration with MoCA. She would like this meeting to occur before the WestPAC committee meets with MoCA to discuss next year's exhibition.

The committee will be installing new exhibitions at the Senior Center, and the Town Hall Lobby.

WestPAC has received a grant for a fund raiser to be held on June 6th to raise funds for the Town collection.

Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm

Respectfully submitted.

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee