

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at Town Hall room201

Present: Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Paul Davis, Richard Epstein, Jessica Noyes, William Palmer, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks, Dina Upton, Ive Covaci [WestPAC]

Unable to attend: Eric Chiang, Lee Goldstein, Shabana Mani, Charles Rosoff, Britt Steel,

Co-Chair, Nancy Diamond opened the meeting at 12 noon

Nancy welcomed new member Paul Davis to the committee. Paul has lived in Westport 40 years and has worked on the Westport Conservation Committee for the past ten years and was the IT guy for the Westport Arts Center now known as MoCA Westport.

Sculpture update: Dina Upton

On Saturday May 4th the work of sculptor Niki Ketchman was dedicated at Pasacreate Park on the Saugatuck River. A large gathering of friends and family attended, Nancy made the introductions and Niki spoke about “*Passages*” how she conceived the piece and its construction. The installation of the sculpture was handled by Public Works who were great to work with.

As we move forward in finding sculpture for the other parks in Westport it was felt a fund had to be established for the purpose along with guidelines and policy. Initiative needs a name. A couple of ideas were suggested, “Art for Public Places” and “Art Park Westport”.

A sub- Committee meeting is to take place on Tuesday, May 25th at 2pm to discuss fund raising and acquiring work for the project.

Dina has organized a visit to artist Mac Zaref’s studio on Tuesday, May 21, at 2:30pm in Norwalk. Address information will be sent to committee.

Another possible artist for one of the parks is Babette.

WestPAC Fundraiser: Ive Covaci

ART in BLOOM” a gala to raise money for the Westport Public Art Collection to be held at the Westport Women’s Club on Thursday June 6, 7 – 9pm. There will be Cocktails and a Silent Art Auction of 25 – 30 works

TEA Talk: November 17, 2024

After discussion it was decided to present “Humor” at this year’s TEA Talk. Humor can be found in many forms. from Cartoon art to formal painting and Standup comedy.

Richard will contact Weird All to see if he is interested and Miggs will contact the artist, Norman Sigal. More discussion at next meeting.

Other Business.

Britt has worked hard to find another poet to be the next Westport Poet Laureate without much success. Nancy spoke with the first Select women to ask if we could expand are area of search to other Towns. In the meantime, it was decided to continue the search and take a year off. Are Current Poet Laureate Jessica Noyes has graciously agreed to extend her term for one more year.

A motion was made by Kathie Bennewitz to recommend that Jessica Noyes continue to be Westport's Poet Laureate through June 2025. Richard Epstein so moved, all in favor.

Jessie will compose a poem for the Memorial Day parade.

The nest Meeting will be June 11, 2024, 12 noon Town Hall room 201

Meeting adjourned at 1;04pm

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory committee