

Westport Arts Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 10, 2024, Town Hall room 309/307

Present: Nancy Diamond, Shobana Mani, Kathie Bennewitz, Miggs Burroughs, Paul Davis,
Donna Disch, Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Jessica Noyes, William Palmer, Charles Rosoff, Britt Steel, Elizabeth Strick, David Rosenwaks, Dina Upton, Ive Covaci and Anne Boberski [WestPAC]

Unable to attend: Eric Chiang

Co-chair Nancy Diamond called the meeting to order at 12:05pm

TEA Talk:

Richard has spoken with Matt Davies cartoonist and Pulitzer Prize winner to see if he would speak at TEA Talk. Other names discussed; Olivia Levine, a comedy writer, performer and director; Fred Stoppel, comic playwright, who also works for Nickelodeon; Norm Segal artist who injects humor into his work. Michael Rappaport, comedian, was also suggested but his fee is \$20,000.

A number of titles were put forward for TEA Talk's comedy in the arts conversations. After discussion, it was unanimously decided: "*The art of Being Funny, When HA HA is a No No*"

Format for the event still under discussion. There is definite interest also in including Alex McHale, Staples English teacher and stand-up comic

A QR code will be added to the WAAC website and event program for mailing list sign-ups.

Poet Laureate.

Nancy welcomed Donna Disch as our new Poet Laureate who has accepted the honor until 2026. There will be a reception at the Library on September 17, at 4pm. At that time Jessica Noyes McEntee will be thanked for her two years as the Town's Poet Laureate. Both poets will read some poetry and refreshments will be served.

Donna announced Parks and Rec has approved a "poetry box" at the corner of Compo Beach Rd and Soundview Rd. Donna has one of these boxes in front of her house. She puts a new poem into the box each Monday...walkers can read and take a photo of the poem if they wish.

Sculpture Update:

Dina reported on her meeting with Mark Zarif. His work, Enzo, that interested WAAC for Eloise Ray Park is currently on exhibit in Massachusetts. We will need to inspect it before installation at Eloise Ray Park. Our interest is in Babette Block's work for Canal Green Park. We will meet with the artist, Parks and Rec and Public Works on Monday

Sept 16 at 3pm to discuss the sculptures' siting. Once the site at each park has been approved, recommendations will be sent to the Parks and Rec Commission and then the First Selectwomen for final sign off.

Charles Rosoff made a Motion to recommend the installation of the two sculptures one at Canal Green Park and one at Eloise Ray Park as long as the artist met all conditions and there is approval from the Town. Richard Epstein seconded.

All were in favor, with Kathie Bennewitz abstaining.

Kathie Bennewitz reported that Anne Boberski along with Ive Covici , WestPAC co-chairs, will be the reps at WAAC meetings. Agenda and minutes are to be sent to both.

The Cartoon show opened at the library; all work is on loan from the Town Collection. WestPAC has also lent work to the Fairfield Museum and History Center and the Bellarmine Museum of Art at Fairfield University for their current exhibitions. West PAC will be curating an exhibition of work from the Town Collection at MoCA/CT. The opening is on January 16, 2025

**PLEASE NOTE MEETING CHANGE:
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 1, 2024, AT 12 NOON TOWN HALL ROOM 201**

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary Westport Arts Advisory Committee