

**West Hartford Commission on the Arts**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

West Hartford Town Hall – Room 308  
20 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107

Any written materials that may be presented at the meeting will be available on the Town Clerk's website at [www.westhartfordct.gov](http://www.westhartfordct.gov).

**I. Meeting Opening**

- Call to Order-the meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.
- Roll Call-The following members were present: Matthew Bragg, Javier Colon, Chuck Coursey, Latanya Farrell, Carol McCabe, Mirela Panaitisor, and Susan Rothenberg  
The following members were absent: Karen Bachman and Nancy Hoffman.
- Approval of the minutes from June 21, 2021 meeting-Matt made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Latanya. All in favor. No opposed.

**II. Old Business**

- Adopt - WHAC Fundraising Policy-Matt presented the policy, explained and emphasised the importance of supporting fundraisers in town only as private citizens and not as members of WHAC
- Update - Public Space to Post Arts & Culture Notices – Sue shared a list of multiple key locations in town where posts about Art & Culture Notices will get the most visibility. Mirela mentioned the Morris Columns in Europe which are highly visible, lit during the night, durable and come with an added layer of protection against vandalism. Mirela will research and share with the Commission members images of Morris Columns.
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule- Chuck proposed canceling August's meeting. All in favor. No opposed.
- Suggestions for future commission members -Since Karen, Chuck and Nancy's appointments to WHAC will come to an end on December 31, 2021, everyone was encouraged to think and propose future candidates willing to serve in the Commission. Chuck also explained how each future member's political affiliation will be taken into consideration during the selection process in an effort to choose people from all political spectrum.

**III. Committee Updates**

- Partnerships – Mirela & Sue-Mirela noted that WHSO was given the green light to return to in person rehearsals at Sedgwick Middle School beginning with Sept 8. She also mentioned that the first concert of the 2021-2022 session is scheduled for November 7 at KO in the Roberts Theatre
- Communications – Carol & Chuck -No updates
- Artist Outreach – Javier & Latanya-No updates
- Town Outreach – Chuck-No updates
- Finance – Matt -No updates
- Events – Nancy, Karen -No updates
- West Hartford Arts & Culture Collaborative Update – Karen-No updates

#### **IV. Events Update**

- Holiday Stroll December 2021 - WH Art League/WH Art Trail – Carol, Nancy & Mirela will meet with Roxanne on Wednesday 7/21 to begin planning for the December event. Since the Holiday Stroll is organized by WH Chamber of Commerce, Chuck will also meet with Chris Conway to discuss a few (new) ideas. Mirela and Sue suggested that the Town Hall be hosting short performances of WHSO and WH Chorale which would include these 2 organizations as part of the Holiday Stroll, enhancing the residents' festive experience. Javier suggested an annual music event that could attract big crowds and media attention, rally all the local talent and give WH a top-notch memorable experience. Mirela also suggested a winter festival held in one of the parks or large outdoor areas where all the arts and culture organizations, local artist as well as many WH businesses, vendors and food trucks could offer an eclectic community holiday get together, allowing this way an ample space for many more to participate.

#### **V. New Business** – Commission members may introduce items for exploration and discussion at the next Commission Meeting.

- Chuck shared that he spoke to a member of Town of Bloomfield Arts Commission about past joint projects between our towns and ways to collaborate in the future.
- Chuck also informed the Commission that he worked on compiling all requirements for the WH public art application and submitted a new succinct, easier to complete version of the document for Town Council's approval.
- Chuck noted that although WHAC doesn't have any funds of its own, the Town of WH has a small fund of its budget allocated for the arts. Matt also commented that to each \$1 invested into an art event/project, the projected return of the investment is \$6.

#### **VI. Public Comment-No public comments.**

#### **VII. Adjournment**-Sue made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Latanya. All in favor. No opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

"ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 AT LEAST TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING."