

**West Hartford Commission on the Arts  
Minutes of the Meeting  
October 18, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

**I. Meeting Opening**

- Call to Order-the meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.
- Roll Call- Present: Karen Bachman, Chuck Coursey, Latanya Farrell, Nancy Hoffman, Mirela Panaitisor, Susan Rothenberg  
-Absent Matt Bragg and Javier Colon, Carol McCabe
- Approval of the minutes from the September 29, 2021 meeting -Latanya made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Karen.  
-With a unanimous vote, Minutes were approved (6-0).

**II. Old Business**

- Terms of Commissioners/New Commissioners – Chuck and Karen expressed their intention of continuing their activity as WHAC members. Nancy will have to communicate her decision before the Commission’s next meeting on November 15, 2021.
- Possible Annual Music Event – no updates
- Possible Winter Festival – no updates

**III. Committee Updates**

- Partnerships – WHSO – Mirela updated the Commission about the joint WHSO and BTC event at the Holiday Stroll
- Communications – no updates
- Artist Outreach – no updates
- Town Outreach – Chuck- presented updates regarding the WHAC members’ appointing process as well as the conversation with Matt Hart
- Finance – Matt -no updates
- Events – Nancy, Karen -no updates
- West Hartford Arts & Culture Collaborative Update – Karen talked about the initiative to cross-promote holiday events for the West Hartford Arts & Culture Collaborative. Karen also shared that the Collaborative is also focusing on diversity.

**IV. Conversation with Town Manager Matt Hart**

● Chuck informed the commissioners about the Town Meeting he had regarding the **Freedom of Information Act**. All WHAC members received detailed training notes. Chuck reiterated that all the email communication amongst members of the WHAC is considered a meeting and therefore it should not happen as the public can’t have access to it.

- Kiosks/Morris Columns, Mural Application Process, Possible Arts Funding, and the American Rescue Plan Act Funds  
- Following the conversation between WHAC members and Matt Hart, Chuck will share updates

as they become available.

## **V. Events Update**

- Holiday Stroll December 2021 - Mirela updated the Commission about the joint WHSO and BTC event at the Holiday Stroll

## **VI. New Business –**

- **New Art Initiative**-Chuck shared details about a new initiative that comes from Barry Walters who ran the Pride Celebration last June at Blue Back Square. Barry's idea is to have a Pride Walk where businesses in a commercial area like Park Road could sponsor art. Chuck said the conversation is in its early stages but he will update WHAC as details become available.
- **WHAC 2022 Schedule**-Chuck asked the commissioners if next year's meetings should continue to occur on the 3rd Monday of each month. Chuck also suggested that should the 3rd Monday of a month fall on a holiday, the WHAC should meet on the 2nd Monday. With a unanimous vote, next year's schedule passed 6-0.

**VII. Public Comment**- no public comments

**VIII. Adjournment**- Chuck made a motion to adjourn. With a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

"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."