



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

July 27, 2015

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Chairman Harvey Center with Commissioners: Mary Burke, Sandy Chaleski, John Cherry, Robert Feinson, Gregory Smith and Interim Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Commissioner Helen Bechard was absent.

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as presented, through a motion from GSmith second SChaleski, passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

Letters from Nancy Lim, Arts Scholarship Award winner: Thank you and Danbury Cultural Association: Thank you.

Report on events:

The Carillon Concerts have been well received. :GWencek
Richter Art Center has received a State Grant / Bond for house repairs. :HCenter
The Danbury Museum current exhibit, Focus on the Fifties, is good. : RFeinson

On going Business:

The City Council minutes reports that The Charles Ives Authority has been funded and new members have been appointed.

Other questions about the Ives Authority and the Cultural Commission are waiting for the Commission's meeting with the Mayor, now scheduled for a Special meeting August 3, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Coordinators Report:

The Commission website domain (DanburyArts.com) has been secured for the next 12 months. The On-Line calendar has been updated. It is linked to the Commission website. A calendar newsletter can be produced, and if sent electronically, will not incur a cost. A sample was sent to the Commissioners as an example.

Discussion about the time commitment needed and the importance to produce as scheduled went on among the Commissioners. The Coordinator stated that the time to produce the Newsletter was only 10 to 15 minutes more than simply keeping the On-line calendar up to date.

Other discussion about calendar format was discussed.

The number of subscribers to the current newsletter is 54. The Calendar mail list will be separate from the Newsletter.

Commissioners are asked to inquire of their friends if they would like to receive the mailings in order to expand the list.

RECEIVED AND FILED
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
DANBURY, CONN.

SEP 30 2015

at 11:57 AM

10 o'clock

Town Clerk



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Appeal from Community groups:

1. Heart and Soul Ent. LLC requests \$6,500.

Terrance Jack presented his request for the 4th Annual Caribbean Jerk Festival

All Caribbean countries are represented at the festival. 9 or 10 food vendors are on hand to add the flavor of the Caribbean. This is one of the most popular aspects of the Festival.

10 bands, representing many different Caribbean music styles are scheduled to attend. The performers include many local acts.

This festival has brought a diverse crowd to the Danbury Ives Street Green. The U.S. has a deep connection to the Caribbean, most people know the music and enjoy the food.

This event is second in attendance to the Taste of Danbury.

Mr. Jacks hopes to grow the reach and size of the festival in the future and wants to add a parade as well.

2. Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Foundation (GDICC) requests \$1,000.

John Feeney presented his request for the Irish Festival

The GDICC has held this festival in the past, but the last event lost money because of rain for the entire weekend. After a few years of income building through smaller festivals held at their Lake Ave. Center, they are ready to produce another full scale Festival.

The biggest change is that food will be supplied by vendors rather than being home-made and sold by volunteers. This is the GDICC major fund raiser for the year. Proceeds from the Festival are applied to their year round work in Danbury providing classes in music, dance and language. The GDICC offers movies and concerts throughout the year some of which are free.

Moved by MBurke to grant Heart and Soul Ent. LLC \$1,000, seconded by RFeinson.

Discussion: Mary Burke noted that the Commission likes to "recognize diverse groups in Danbury". She continued that they provide "Elements of ownership in the Community".

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Moved by JCherry to grant Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Foundation \$800, seconded by GSmith.

Discussion: The list of activities at the GDICC is extensive. The commission supports this endeavour.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ongoing business continued

Regarding the Coordinator:

The opinion solicited from the Corporation council was that a Commissioner may not serve as the Coordinator. A Commissioner may volunteer to do the Coordinator's work but must take a leave of absence and not be paid for the work.



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A motion was made by MBurke and seconded by GSmith to rescind payment to Gregory Wencek, interim Coordinator, because a Commissioner cannot be a paid Coordinator. Passed by majority vote, Gregory Wencek abstained. Gregory Wencek has submitted a letter to the Chairman requesting a Leave of absence until a permanent Coordinator can be named. A Special meeting, with the Mayor, has been scheduled for August 3, 2015 to discuss this and other Commission business.

Moved by GSmith to adjourn at 7:59 PM, seconded by RFeinson, passed by unanimous vote.