

# **West Hartford Commission on the Arts - Regular Meeting Minutes**

## **November 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM - Virtual**

### **I. Meeting Opening**

- Call to Order: 6:34 PM
- Roll Call: Karen Bachman, Matthew Bragg, Chuck Coursey, Ginny Kemp, Carol McCabe, Sue Rothenberg
  - Absence Excused: Javier Colon, Latanya Farrell, Mirela Panaitisor
- Approval of October Meeting Minutes: Karen made motion to approve the minutes, and Ginny seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved 6-0.

### **II. Public Comment:**

- Rebecca Sears, Director of the WH Sr. Center, spoke about:
  - Trying to connect artists & community in a meaningful way (ex. intergenerational programming).
  - Offering up the Bishops Corner Sr. Center as place for art (use as gallery, music, spoken word, etc.)
  - Chuck, Rebecca & Sig Rogalski will draft up idea before the 12/18/23 meeting.

### **III. Old Business**

- Discussion - "Artify & Enliven West Hartford":
  - Discussion: Each member to ID 3 places in West Hartford that have not hosted artists and bring suggestions to Nov meeting to review/assess.
    - Carol: Bouqueria, side of old Movie Theater (now Walgreens).
    - Ginny: J. Renee Roasters, Kimberly Gift, French Cleaners.
    - Karen: Zaytoons (music)
    - Sue: Portobello (art)
  - Member Action: Obtain business POC and email to arrange an info. meeting.

### **IV. New Business**

- We Ha Fit Comedy Night: Owner Mike interested in hosting cancer fundraiser 12/28/23.
- Riverbend Books: Owner Megan interested in hosting a reading after new year.
- Effie's Place: Owner Johnny Pandaris also interested in hosting an event.
- Collaboration with Bishops Corner Neighborhood Association & WH Senior Center: Chuck met with Rebecca Sears & Sig Rogalski to discuss ideas on 3 groups teaming on art events/art promotions.
- Indigenous Peoples Recognition and Reconciliation Task Force: supporting and creating pathways to better educate the community about the importance of West Hartford Indigenous history and culture: Ace Billings Smith leads this. Chuck invited her to discuss at future WHAC meeting,
- Podcast: Chuck doing this on WH history and culture. Library will host Chuck's 1<sup>st</sup> one (video podcast). Will then arrange access via social media sites.
- Karen discussed continuing issue with art organizations not getting town-supported advertising of upcoming art events.

### **V. Adjournment:** Sue made motion to adjourn, and Karen seconded the motion. Adjournment was unanimously approved at 7:31 PM.