

**West Hartford Commission on the Arts
Special Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024 at 6:30 PM - Virtual**

I. Meeting Opening

- Call to Order: 6:36 PM
- Roll Call: Karen Bachman, Chuck Coursey, Latanya Farrell, Ginny Kemp, Mirela Panaitisor, Sue Rothenberg
 - Absence Excused: Matthew Bragg, Javier Colon, Carol McCabe
- Approval of November Meeting Minutes: LaTanya made motion to approve the minutes, and Karen seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved 6-0.

II. Public Comment: no public comment.

III. Old Business

- 2024 Meeting Schedule: Chuck sending to members proposed schedule, based on expressed interest in Jan meeting to hold mix of in-person (Town Hall) & virtual meetings during the year.
- Discussion - "Places & Spaces": Potential WH sites to host part.
 - We Ha Fit Comedy Night: Cancer fundraiser took place 12/28/23.
 - Riverbend Books: Chuck sent notes from his meeting with Owner Meghan Hayden on ideas for Park Rd neighborhood poetry events for April.
 - Megham to recruit poets.
 - WHAC, Park Rd Assn & WHPL to promote and market events.
 - Available Dates: April 13,14, 20 & 21.
 - Discussed idea of contact HS Dept Chairs to involve students.
 - Chuck setting up an organizing meeting week of 1/29/24 with Meghan and available WHAC members & then providing post-meeting update.

IV. New Business

- Collaboration with Bishops Corner Neighborhood Association & WH Senior Center: Chuck attending Thurs 1/25/24 meeting to further discuss ideas for 3 groups teaming on art events/art promotions.
- Dylan Healy: a W.Htfd musician, record label owner & supporter of local artists.
 - Wants to create a W.Htfd artist maker space – small performance area.
- Town of West Hartford Support
 - WHAC has a goal of encouraging greater arts involvement by town govt.
 - Opened discussion on how to get town govt support & marketing of arts (ex. town-supported advertising of upcoming art events).
 - Mirela proposed polling artists on their needs 1st & then working with town to address.
 - Karen suggested allowing art events be advertised on Town of West Hartford Facebook page).

V. Adjournment: Karen made motion to adjourn, and Mirela seconded the motion. Adjournment was unanimously approved at 7:37 PM.