

**City of Newburgh
Arts & Culture Commission
February 21st, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

Present Commissioners:

Garin Baker (GB)
Kevin White (KW)
Natasha Cotton (NC)
Ilyana Campos (IC)
Stuart Sachs (SS)
Kippy Boyle (KP)
Marsha Zola (MZ)
Jim Hoekema (JH)
Torrance Harvey (TH)
Clayton Buchanan (CB)
Peter Cody (PC)
Karen Heroy (KH)
Beth Ann Gilmore (BG)

Absent Commissioners:

Thomas Knieser (TK)

Preliminaries

- Martha Zola introduced Kendal Henry, newly appointed Cultural & Economic Director. She reviewed his impressive resume and extensive arts experience.
- Kevin White introduced Doris Perez, new Commission Secretary.
- Introduction of Commissioners.

Call to Order: 7:06 pm by Kevin White

Approval of last meeting minutes from January 10, 2007 – motioned by GB, 2nd by PC and unanimous by commissioners.

Committee Reports:

Artist Support & Advocacy Committee (MZ)

- Report copies given to members
- Kendal was asked to attend meeting to review several documents produced by group. Kendal gave specific suggestions to the Gifts document; original approved document intended for the jury committee to be composed of 3 artist, 1 commissioner and 3 community members. Through Kendal's previous experience with community participation has suggested not to set it up as a contesting contingency but rather have community members as advisory to the commission. Alterations have been made in the document (previously sent to commissioners for review). MZ motioned for change to be approved SS 2nd the motion and accepted unanimous.
- Calendar Status Report- MZ conversing with Courtney. At City's request commissioners have worked with City & completed calendar guidelines and have been advised that new calendar would be adopted. The delay was due in part of awaiting for the hiring of a new Director, who is now with us and has to review guidelines and make suggestions. Courtney has advised that the portion to be completed by the city was just about done. MZ in continuous communication with Courtney on the progress of Calendar.
- Status of Artists in Residence Zoning Draft- SS diligently working on. MZ asks SS to report on status. Ian McDougal was unable to meet before the charrette process and asked if the final drafting of document could be put off until after the charrette. His specific interest in calling it a "mixed use" rather than an "artist live-work" not certain if mattered this mattered to Commission

but it mattered to Ian in terms of the overall planning. Draft was provided to Ian as well as Leyland and to two attorneys (Gary Shuster's Law Firm) because they are specialist in Real Estate. Their specific comments around, "Should there be a specific artist zone (speak to Kendal about as well) or should it be building by building approved for mixed use? – Discussion by Commissioners and Kendal Henry of this issue.

Youth Education & Community Outreach Committee (NC)

- Report copies given to members
- NC will schedule meeting with Kendal.
- Jill Gruber- Hudson Valley Materials Exchange facing difficulties and would like the support of the Arts & Culture Commission. She serves many artists in our community. NC advised that either SS or MZ would give her a call. Jill Gruber is being evicted from space at Stewart Airport and is looking for a live-work space. Kippy advised commissioners that at a meeting she was advised that Beacon is trying to get her over there & providing her with space. Discussion by Commissioners. Kendal & Commission to reach out to her for assistance.
- Bob Ewald wants to teach children about the outdoors. Wants inner city children to participate in his program. Collaboration with Recreation Department. Discussion that Mr. Ewald's goals are not that of art. Discussion by commissioners.
- Recreation Department draft with arts component sent to Jean-Ann McGrane, Jan. 20th. Courtney & sent out. Life Size board game. \$10,000 budgeted. Courtney will provide GB with answer.
- Currently working on program with School District. Mr. Tom Fitzgerald on our team.

Funding Mechanism Committee (GB)

- Orange Arts Grant from OC Office of Tourism. Commission was able to submit a proposal (handed out to review) in the amount of \$8,350 written by KW. Proposal submitted to hold summer outdoor performances that will include a multi-cultural mix of dance, theatre and music. If granted the Arts Commission will present series of four, three hour performances to be held during summer months of June, July, August & September, on the last Saturday of each month which will coincide with Newburgh's Last Saturdays. The commission will chose from a talented array of local artists. Commission's goals is to tear down the boundaries that exist between the City of Newburgh and OC tailored two cities where race & class too often separate one another. Discussion by Commissioners.
- Were unable to apply for Decentralization grant due to non completion in time (GB). (KW) advised that this did not happen due to the fact that the Commission is applying for the NYSCA grant which is more dollars. Can not apply for both. NYSCA monies are bigger and more steady. There have been several artists who have contacted GB regarding Studio Tours which happened in Newburgh years previous. They would like to see this happen once again and would like for the Arts Commission to support and/or sponsor. SS advised that he spoke with Gary who advised that there was \$75,000 from the County that may be possible to tap into for the studio tours. GB informed everyone that there were other grant opportunities on the Horizon that KW is working on; NYSCA funding & organizational funding. KW provided details and advised that the registration process had to be completed first and the application process follows (will also be in touch with Kendal). Variety of opportunities available to apply for and it was agreed that what the Commission would apply for the Information Services Component. KW explained that t would consist of the support for creating, marketing & distributing information materials, literature, brochures, newsletters, web sites, media, etc. about arts programs and services to provide public awareness of community cultural events and to expand participation in those activities by organizations, individual artists and the general public. KW advised that this grant allows for the hiring of a staff member to do this work probably a part time person. Hope to use this to create the web site the Commission has discussed. Discussion by Commissioners.
- Kendal was asked to give an update on the meeting he had with the City Manager in reference to % of arts. Update given by Kendal.

Nominating Committee (JH)

- Report copies given to members
- Along with report is a draft of a letter to the City Manager for Garin's signature, assuming approval is granted with the resumes of the candidates.
- JH move to accept chosen candidates as well as send recommendation letter to City Council PC 2nd motioned. All in favor.
- New commissioners expected to begin in March
- Discussion by Commissioners.

Old/New Business

- (KB) drafting letters for commission to take stand on issues.
- (KB) requested that commissioners have representatives available to attend meetings.
- (KB) advised that DPW willing to partner with Commission and asked that someone follow up with George Garrison.
- (KB) informed commissioners of a "4 Saturdays, 4 Cities" meeting.
- Discussion by commissioners followed.

Public Comment

- Thanks to all departing members.
- Karen Heroy advised that she will be resigning from commission.
- (GB) advised that Bill Richardson, President of OCCC would be present at next City Council meeting & advised all members to try to attend.
- (SS) Recommended bringing up topic of an Art department at OCCC.
- (GB) advised that his chairmanship is up in March. Asked commissioners to consider new nominees.
- (TH) informed of success of James Brown tribute & of upcoming event by Morehouse Glee Club at NFA, March 10th, 2007 @ 7pm.
- (NC) advised of Young Pioneers of Newburgh on Mondays & Fridays @ 152 Grand Street for youth 12 & up.

Agenda Items

- New Chairman
- Review of Committees; which function/not function.
- Committees asked to provide one year status report

Closing Comments

KW motioned to adjourn meeting, SS 2nd the motion, all in favor.
Meeting adjourned @ 9pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 14th, 2007