

Watertown Public Arts and Culture Meeting

Monday, April 24, 2023

Attending: Roberta Miller, Archy LaSalle, Dawn Scaltreto, Liz Helfer, Erin Webb, Sally Young, WCA-TV

Call to order 6:07

1. Opening – Archy voiced our Land Acknowledgement – He has been thinking about renaming the Watertown Delta from the Columbus Delta to something else that reflects a more thoughtful reimagining of that place in history. As an educator he has been looking to open dialogue and be honest and confront truths, even those, perhaps especially those, that make us uncomfortable. Many people have lived here a long time, and some may have just moved in. In a film Archy saw recently about H. G. Wells and his time machine, Malcolm MacDowell's character H. G. Wells quotes, "The first person who raises a fist is the person who has run out of ideas to make a change." This presses us to make thoughtful choices, communicate with others who may challenge, or resist making a change and see the process through to make a decision that honors our legacy and whole community.
2. February and March minutes will be reviewed and voted upon. Liz will send two edits, Judy Fallows' name is misspelled and the project name "Plants of our Past, Present and Future" has been changed to "Edible Plants". Sally motion, Archy second.
3. Subcommittee and Project Reports
 - a. Governance and Finances – We did not receive the NEA grant. There was a scheduled meeting of training for members of our group scheduled for May 12, but it will be tabled until all of our new members are seated. The Governance Committee wrote a letter to the Council to modify our requirements to have two underage members. There will be a subcommittee of the Council who will meet with Liz and Roberta to review this, and if passed we could have four new members.
 - b. Outreach Subcommittee – We are on for the Pride celebration at the Library on Saturday, June 3, 11 am to 4 pm. Sally is a Tie-Dye expert and has volunteered to person the table. Dawn and Archy will also help out at the event. Things are moving along on the Cultural District. The mapping subcommittee has planned things out and there will be a review by the greater committee. The Cultural District Partnership is the governing body, currently includes 16 entities and they are determining things now. There is a big intersection of the different groups to make some decisions in an exciting way. Liz shared an interesting Venn diagram of all the arts organizations in Watertown and how they are interconnected. Liz will share it with us.
 - c. The Cultural Leaders meeting is upcoming, April 27, 10 am to noon at the Mosesian Center for the Arts
 - d. Community Sculpture Walk – The first sculpture went in today, by Peter Dellert of Holyoke, MA, which will be followed by installations by Linda Hoffman of Harvard, MA, Joe Chirchirillo of North Bennington, VT, and James Payne of Perkinsville, VT. Each sculpture addresses the theme of "The River" in a different way. Next Monday, Wednesday and Friday the subsequent installations will be completed! The signage is already up, and people were interested as it was installed. Liz shared a video of the installed

artwork. All of the pads are installed, as well as pads for installing benches. Opening May 18, 5 – 7 pm! Meet the Artists, lead people around, wand making and more.

- e. Edible Watertown – We did not get the NEA Grant. We need to explore possibilities for other grants and funding sources. Everyone has seen the draft call, which includes literary artists this time around. We will have experts from outside the community. There is a call for signage from school children for the community garden program. The committee is working with the school curriculum coordinator, Elizabeth Kaplan, and Judy Fallows, to do botanical drawings with 5th or 4th graders which will be displayed in the gardens. Roberta had some comments about the artist stipend and other details. A discussion was started about the length of submissions by writers, and Roberta will inquire with our expert writer consultants who know the field for their input. “Pollinator Pathways” and “Your Garden” signage will include QR codes that teachers can link to about bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. There may be one or two artists chosen for this job. The raised garden beds will be built within two months, there are the calls for artists going out in July, and projects for kids will happen in the fall. There is a call for a motion to approve the Calls for Art with amendments, Erin moves, Archy seconds, and it is unanimous.
- f. The Community Foundation Program Grant has gone in. The new director of the Community Foundation will be at the meeting, introduce her if you are able to attend.
- g. YardArt opening had about 75 people attend, but there between 120 to 130 Yard Art installations around town. People loved seeing the slide show and making buttons. This was a great collaboration between PACC and HATCH, WCC, and Mosesian. Liz was key to much of that. The Chair of that committee, Vicky Sax, is wonderful, and the program will continue through the end of April. Sally recommends visiting Monica Fairbairn’s installation “Ameri-Can Chorus” at 36 Marsha Road, Phone Henge at Upland and Appleton is also hysterical. Dawn remarked that the Yard Art program is very special and unique to Watertown, our special thing, and we should work year-round to build interest and participation.

Upcoming meetings include: City Council Subcommittee 6 pm 4/25 at City Hall; a Community Leaders Meeting regarding community outreach; the Sculpture Path Reception starting at the first installation near the back corner of the library on Thursday the 18th, 5 pm; Pride on June 3, 11 am – 4 pm at the Library; the Edible Watertown Subcommittee Schedule this week, with Sally, Erin and Liz this Friday the 28th at 2:30 in-person; and Governance and Funding, 9:30 am, Monday the 1st, in person.

- 4. New Business – No new business.
- 5. Visitor Input – No visitors tonight, but Dawn talked about how she met the new Senior Center Director, Lydia McCoy. She is very interested in the arts and including Watertown Seniors in arts and cultural activities in Watertown. She talked about the possibility of applying for a grant or funding to support an arts-based happening or class that encourages better health and cognition among our aging population.
- 6. Next meeting – Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2023, 6 pm.
- 7. Move to adjourn by Erin, Archy seconds, adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Evans Scaltreto