

Watertown Public Arts and Culture Meeting

Monday, July 24, 2023

Attending: Roberta Miller, Archy LaSalle, Dawn Scaltreto, Liz Helfer, Erin Webb, Sally Young, WCAC

Call to order 6:12

1. Call to Order and Opening – Roberta

a. Acknowledgement – Archy presented a Lakota prayer, Wakan Tanka, below:

**Wakan Tanka, Great Mystery**

Teach me how to trust

My heart,

My mind,

My intuition,

My inner knowing,

The senses of my body,

The blessings of my spirit.

Teach me to trust these things

So that I may enter my Sacred Space

And love beyond my fear,

And thus Walk in Balance

With the passing of each glorious Sun.                      – Lakota Prayer

2. Approval of the June Minutes will take place in August as Dawn did not have them fully prepared for the meeting.

3. Subcommittee and Project Team Reports:

a. Governance and Funding – Roberta

i. We must make changes to foundational documents so that we have not any substantive changes. It is pretty straightforward to allow for more members, no under 21, Roberta proposes that we approve those amendments tonight. All references to under 21 members updating to say that it is for regular members. Sally moves to approve, Archy seconds. Unanimous approval.

ii. Three new potential members have been interviewed and recommended, Barbara Epstein, Matt Hannah and Swati Biswas. Proposed training and orientation scheduled for

Monday, Oct 16 since there are so many new members. Sally requests that it be an in-person meeting, and Sally will be happy to think about what specific things may be done.

iii. NEA Projects grant was fully submitted, results are expected in April 2024. This year's grant for Edible Watertown's "Expert Pairings" is stronger than last year's submission. Thanks for all notes and feedback. Thanks to Liz for all hard work.

b. Outreach Subcommittee – Erin –

- i. Erin has been putting together the PACC Arts Bulletin for this month – it is very jam packed, including a Call to Art for Edible Watertown with a link for writers and artists for Pollinator Pathways. We have a healthy number of applicants already. A virtual info session was hosted and the recording will be posted.
- ii. Erin held a subcommittee meeting with Archy and Dawn, and discussed outreach to underrepresented communities. We will be patient and build connections with people. Erin has a connection with a group that does dental work with a Mashpee Tribe on Martha's Vineyard, hopefully be able to connect with the arts community of the tribe through this dental program with Harvard University. Archy has also made some sculpture walk connections and wants to go to Fruitlands Museum to try to connect with their greater community. He also put out something to the MCA sculpture program. A conversation with Michael Bobbit revealed that he can't give us artist names from MCC, but that they will push out info about our calls through their network which also gives us strength through their legitimacy. Sally remarked about the growing Arab/Muslim population that is growing in Watertown. We could possibly do outreach through the literacy program at the Library, possibly through churches in town. Roberta feels we need a personal connection to individual churches. There is a large Bahai community in Watertown. Erin mentioned that there are some communities that maybe do not care that much about arts and culture.
- iii. Watertown Arts Market, Saturday, August 19, 12 to 5 pm – Liz Liz – We will be next to Watertown Cultural Council. Pictures will be taken for selfies for people that complete arts scavenger hunt, 12 arts orgs plus involved! Teens from Mosesian will assist with face painting. Sally will have an activity at her table painting rocks and shells.
- iv. Watertown Schools have recently deaccessioned a stand-up piano and DPW is storing it so we can use it for a public art project. Dawn recalls that Watertown teacher and artist, Maggie Mason, has a son in law who is a piano tuner. He ran Luke Jerram's *Play Me I'm Yours* exhibit in 2016. He could possibly assist in an advisory capacity. A meeting will be scheduled to plan the project.
- v. Community Sculpture Walk – Call for art went out broadening review. This must be posted by September, we can have a motion tonight to insure it goes out in a timely manner. Erin moves, Archy seconds, all are in favor of moving forward.
- vi. Liz spoke with Lydia McCoy, Director of Senior Services. She is interested in creating a 9<sup>th</sup> sculpture pad on the Sculpture Walk. Seniors would be involved with the creation of the art and provide community engagement of the project. If you have any ideas about how that would work, share with Liz who will reconnect with Lydia

in the fall. There may be some funding available for the project from the senior center.

c. Edible Watertown – Sally

- i. The MAPC Accelerating Climate Resiliency Project is off to a great start. Interns are working on the gardens, Sally reports. Hosmer Garden is great, kids will work in August on sketches of flowers, will go to Cunniff and WMS, and there is corn! The group is talking about paying students who are working but are unpaid through the grant. They have started a blog and a website and are building a beautiful history.
  - ii. 2023 Edible Plants Call for Artists and Writers review to be held tonight – total of 71 applications.
3. Visitor Input – No visitors tonight.
  4. Next meeting – Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2023, 6 pm.
  5. Selections of Edible Plants Artists and Writers in executive session. A complete list of selected artists and writers and schedule of events will be provided at the August PACC meeting.
  6. Move to adjourn by Archy, Sally seconds, adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Evans Scaltreto