



Medway Cultural Council Art Programming Subcommittee
August 25 meeting

Meeting started: 7:05 pm

Meeting ended: 9:40 pm

Present:

Members: Gail Hachenberg, Jordan Warnick, Karyl Wong, Judith Moffatt, Jennifer Kendall

Nonmembers: Julie Denehy, Joanne Williams, Ana Bess Moyer Bell

1. Meeting started with Jordan introducing Ana Bess Moyer Bell and her work with COAAST. Ana Bess then spoke about COAAST, a play group addressing substance abuse disorders. It is innovative in using art and stories from the community (ethnodramas) to help people deal with themes like denial, scapegoating, shame, and more in substance abuse disorders. The play ends with a talkback session to meet communities where they are at. All the actors in the play are in recovery or allies. The play is now done virtually, and 100 people are able to attend a session. Cost is \$2000. We urged them to apply for a Cultural Council grant to cover part of the cost and to look into some other grants and funds for the remainder. Partners could possibly include the peer counseling program at the high school, Friends of the Performing Arts, Medway Lions, Medway Business Council, and the police department. Charging a ticket price to offset costs was also discussed. Contacting state and federal politicians was talked about as well.
2. Gail discussed general goals for the group. The committee would like to bring arts and culture to spaces around town as well as form meaningful partnerships with other committees/groups/boards.
3. Gail discussed outreach with the Agricultural Committee. The Cultural Council will be partnering with them to do a photo contest. She will also be working on developing a logo for them.
4. The Bridge idea was introduced. Joanne Williams, a member of the Open Space Committee and the Medway Trail Club, is seeking to join the Cultural Council. She discussed the difficulties in identifying where you are when on the trails. There are 11 bridges on the trails. Giving each one an artistic or historical theme would make public art on the trails as well as help with the safety issue. Joanne discussed some other goals of the Open Space committee such as getting a water trail opened up.
5. Accessibility on the trails was also discussed. Joanne talked about the difficulties of that word and how to make something officially accessible versus unofficially accessible. Karyl brought up adding Braille to railings on the trails and other ways of making open spaces accessible for those who are not sighted, such as with railings, benches, and

fragrant plants and flowers. The Adams Meadow was discussed as a possible space for that. Julie mentioned that the Medway Lions are good resources for Braille.

6. Public art was discussed. Julie would love to see more art in common spaces, especially those close to small businesses. Murals, sculptures, and pop up art exhibits were all discussed favorably.
7. Karyl brought up community art ideas that could be showcased in a pop up art exhibit. Where to actually have such a pocket park with art is the question. Joanne mentioned that there is an overgrown and unkempt 9/11 memorial right next to the post office in town. That was a possibility discussed, but ultimately, as it is most likely federal property, won't be able to be pursued. Joanne pointed out that at the very least, the memorial should be taken care of and possibly moved to another spot in town. **Action item:** Julie will talk to the post office to find out about the memorial park.
8. Asking developers to add public art to their site plans was discussed. There is strength in numbers, so we will work on putting pressure on developers to add art.
9. Julie talked about her diversity advisory group - called Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Advisory to work with groups in making them more inclusive, diverse, and equitable.
10. Julie urged the council to work on getting a utility box painted or vinyl wrapped, even if the rate is one box per year, it is better than none!
11. The idea of finding sister cities was discussed. **Action item:** Jordan will look into hooking up our city with one or more sister cities for cultural and artistic exchange.
12. The group loved the bridge idea as it enhances a significant asset of the town and brings public art. It will be brought forth to a larger Cultural Council meeting. **Action item:** Joanne will write up a list of the bridges and possibly provide some photos, along with suggestions and ideas for adding art to them. **Action item:** Joanne will also start getting a list of Medway Open Spaces with an eye towards developing one to hold a pop-up art exhibit. A lantern festival was also discussed - possibly for this fall/winter but if not, for the following year. Its exact format will need to be fleshed out.
13. A walk to go on part of the trail was planned for September 1 at 8 am.