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**Medway Cultural Council**

**Minutes**

**September 8, 2020**

**OFFICER’S UPDATES AND REPORTS**

**Call to Order**: Chair Jennifer Kendall called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, Tuesday Sept 8, 2020

**Members in attendance** (on Zoom): Jennifer Kendall, Jordan Warnick, Phil Giangarra, Angelica Crosby, Celeste Falcone, Gail Hachenberg, Judy Moffatt, Hazel Warnick, Ancelin Wolfe, Karyl Wang

**Absent**: Rebecca Atwood, Joanne Williams

**Guest**s: Kim Blankford

**August Meeting Minutes**: Jennifer Kendall asked if there were any changes to the August MCC meeting. Jordan asked that the minutes reflect that he agreed to write the Strategic Planning Document.

*Phil Giangarra moved to accept the minutes as modified; Gail seconded; Voting was unanimous to accept.*

**Treasurer Report**: Phil Giangarra reported that the following amounts were in the MCC account:

* Town - $5,000.00
* Art Lottery LCC - $6869.93
* CC donation account - $3160.00

Phil reiterated that the accounts cannot be combined but must remain separate for accountability. The town’s ‘9-’20 appropriation was returned to the Town of Medway, but the Town provided the same in the ’20-’21 budget. The LCC funds from Mass Cultural Council rolled over.

CANMAN is finishing his grant activity (3 paintings) on Thursday 9/10/20. Phil will contact him on Friday to arrange for payment.

*Treasurer’s Report was accepted as it stands*

**Chairperson Report:**

* **New Members**: Jennifer Kendall announced that two new members had joined the council.
* Ancelin Wolfe and Joanne Williams (Open Space and Trail Club). Both will help with public art.
* Kim Blenkhorn will join shortly to specifically work for community networking for artists.

**Night Board Secretary**: Jennifer reported that the secretary provided to the MCC by the town had resigned. The town is looking for a replacement.

**Art Advocacy Project**

* The Art Advocacy Project is under way with Gail Hachenberg and Jennifer Kendall to determine how to get MCC involved in town planning and with property developers to encourage them to put 1% of their budget into public art.
* It was felt that MCC may have to involve members meeting with Planning Board (though this may conflict with MCC meetings)

**Cross Council/Committee Relationships in Medway**

* Gail related her efforts in creating authentic relationships with other councils/committees in town. These include, e.g., Agriculture, Library, Historical Society, and others. It was felt that these relationships would be beneficial to each entity and to town residents

**Vice Chair Report:**

* Jordan reported on three items he is working on: 1) An Art Poster; 2) Strategic Plan; and 3) Community Survey
  + An **Art Poster** was proposed that would involve Medway students who would submit digital renditions of sites in town.
    - The poster could have commercial sponsors for each; student art chosen for the poster would receive a prize to be determined.
    - A list of possible sites that could be the subject of artistic renderings would be available but not exclusive, leaving applicants free to suggest a subject
    - Subject material could also be used for a map developed with Town Hall (Fran Hutton Lee
  + Regarding the proposed Bridge Project, Gail added that she is interested in developing a map (could be pictures or renditions of bridges)
  + Celeste Falcone was interested in reaching out to the Art teachers in Medway schools to enlist their help
  + Jen added that there are multiple sites in Medway that are not well known for which this could be beneficial.

**Cultural Inventory Updates** - What information should be on it?

* Jenn related to the group that the Cultural Inventory (CI) and Asset List was done. A discussion ensued about the following: 1) How does the list integrate all artistic subjects; 2) Are all the artists on the list; 3) Could a map and posters represent the assets? 4) What do we do with the Cultural Inventory – add – change;
* Members asked:
  + What the CI list was?
  + Is it the Library, Parks, Spaces and Places?
  + Are artists included in the list?
  + Do we need their permission for inclusion?
  + Is the CI necessary?
  + Should this follow development of our Strategic Plan (Medway, Art & Artists/Culture in Medway and answer ‘where are we going?’ and ‘what is our mission?’ Then clarify the CI.
* It was suggested that when we solicit artists, we should ask do they want to be included in the list and what do they want to be known for?
* It was felt that the Strategic Plan should contain a 1-year and 5-year plan.
* Celeste added – What do people think is important to theme wise.]?
* Judy suggested that – Places and Spaces (e.g., parks, library were of importance)
* Other suggested there may be *hidden artists* (those who could gain increased recognition and awareness (*e.g*., Mary Weafer, Kim Blankenship)
* **Jennifer then stated that the CI Inventory/List would be frozen pending the Strategic Plan**

**Grantee Liaison**

* Karyl Wong reported on Canman’s progress with four public paintings. He is getting $2K (not $1K) and will be able to submit a request for payment on Friday 9/11/20 when he completes his 4th painting.
* Karyl additionally reported that
  + Medway Pride Day was cancelled
  + Medway Library is not doing anything
  + Jacqueline Volpe (no action taken as of yet)
  + Art in Bloom artist sent an email noting that she was recognized nationally for her work (she gave up her grant)
* Jordan asked what was the status of paintings? A discussion ensued including:
  + They could be hung in parts of town but:
    - Town Hall was out
    - The Senior Center would not work as there was no room
    - The Medway Library will be taking them to display
    - It was noted that Alison Dempsey at Farmers Market suggested sending them to the Schools though it was noted that there have been problems in the past with the HS displaying art.
    - The Library has first choice and we can possibly think about moving them around in the future.

*Gail Hachenberg moved to keep the Canman Paintings at the Medway Library. Furthermore, the placement will be revisited when COVID-19 is under control when they could then be moved elsewhere and/or an auction could be considered in a year. The possibility could then include maintaining the artwork for public viewing. Hazel Warnick seconded. Passed unanimously*

**Art Advocacy**

* ***MASSCreative* -** Hazel Warnick tracks developments for the MCC related ***MASSCreative*** that advocates for support for the creative community in Massachusetts. She related that MASS Creative follows state laws and is backed by many of the major cultural institutions in the state. It seeks to increase public and private investment in the arts. Currently, there is no sense of state funding.
* Jennifer indicated that if there are actions we can take as individuals or MCC, Hazel will let us know.

**Art Programming Subcommittee**

* **COAAST** - Gail Hachenberg reported on the *COAAST program for Drug Abuse* that approaches the problem with Art (theater). Anna Bess Moyer Bell of COASST presented at the last meeting and was asked to apply for a grant. Margaret at Medway Library is interested in cosponsoring and other groups are possibly involved due the cost and cooperative PR (the cost of $2000 is expensive for just MCC), but it is a town-based event, not regional. The play, conversation and dialog are equally important, and the audience needs to hear the questions and interact and share. It is therefore limited to 100 on a Zoom presentation. Resources and connections are important; the approach is professional.
* **Canman** – Discussed
* **Trails and Bridge project** - discussed (with Joann Williams) and toured as of last week; different scenes for each (DogLeg Bridge); Fran Lee will assist in providing a town maps noting the location of the ‘Bridges’ and production of a virtual on-line map (cost is needed). It was suggested that each needed names.
  + Joann seemed to want partners as funds are limited.
  + Jordan suggested that a poster of the bridges could be dual fundraiser
  + Gail suggested that an association of Art and Culture via MCC and Bridges group is advantageous
    - Are bridges on a website?
    - Are they on trails?
    - It was noted that the bridges are still being built (see Medway Trails Committee/Group)
* **Agricultural Committee - Agricultural Photo Contest**
  + Agricultural Group – Ally Dempsey and group are doing an Ag photo contest with people sending in Medway Ag pictures for a prize on Ag Day. (date not available)
  + MCC will assist in doing judging
* **Medway Library**
  + wants to do programming with Art with elementary school students for a program not based in school
  + Can we get mandalas (with Stipend) small enough for a pkg with crayons and markers provided by library to parents on request and to keep kids busy and engaged?
  + Judith agreed to provide mandalas to be colored in

**Marketing and publicity subcommittee** (meets 3rd Tuesday) - Live paintings, community

survey, grant applications opening 10/1

* Council Visibility – this is important, and we need to get MCC out front; short discussion ensued on how to effect this
  + Bookmarks (Judy and Jordan to collaborate); bookmark with MCC logo and any other group to collaborate on one side, other could be a color-in mandala
* Meeting Visibility – due to the constraints on using the town-based Zoom once a month (no subcommittees), it was suggested that the MCC purchase its own Zoom license and keep the public eye on the MCC through Zoom. Jenn Should MCC purchase a Zoom account ($149.90/year)

*Motion: Gail moved that Jenn request the purchase a Zoom account for the MCC. The motion was seconded by Phil. All in favor: unanimous*

* Art Mask Project – Judy Moffat discussed the proposed MCC COVID Mask and a preliminary design was presented; Gail made the original drawing and Becky has file. Kim suggested recoloring. Should be attractive with our logo but art based.

*A motion was made by Celeste Falcone to move the production of the mask forward by sending it to the Art Sub Committee with details for marketing. Hazel Warnick seconded. Vote was unanimous)*

* Desk top banner was wrecked in the wind at Choate Park during Canman painting but temporarily repaired; will need to be used indoors only or be replaced; Celeste Falcone got printed material to use; Judy suggests Sandwich Board with sign
* Grant availability - Grants will open early October (10/1) and close in November. Marketing committee will send out notice (Jordan)

**Artist Community & Artist Visibility** – The question has been raised as to how can we help the artist community thrive here in Medway? How can we bring artists together? How can we best support artists?

* Artist Visibility - Gail therefore invited Kim (member to be) to 4th Tuesday Art Sub Comm meeting to assist in visibility particularly related to Medway’s artists
* Artist meeting discussion was tabled until late September when we will discuss how to make artist life in Medway better.

**Community Art Project**

* Jennifer talked about joining with other town groups to generate community art projects such as Agriculture, Historical Society, etc., to enhance the town's appeal and attractiveness.
* Canman suggested Open Studio for artists outside in Choate Park
* Hazel suggested applying the concept to musicians (Hazel)
* ‘Art-Out” in venues for different art probably a registered event of up to 10 people (not large groups); other names such as “Drop-In” and Art in the Park were suggested.
  + Discussion about limits to the numbers; maintaining space between individuals and groups with 6-10 ft being mentioned prominently
  + Mechanism to enjoy and do artwork
  + Gail indicated that anything in a public space needed town approval and questioned whether there were existing rules?
  + Would Parks and Recreation (Julie Harrington) be interested or a joint project?
  + Gail will ask Julie about a Park-based event “Art-Outside” and discuss limits
  + On Art Sub Comm Angelica and Karyn would tackle the project suggesting split groups to distant them; Angelica suggested Art-in-the-Park with multiple age groups.
  + To be discussed at Art Comm. Options were discussed

**MCC on Town Website** – Jennifer related that it is difficult to do what we want on town website – we need to get a different website that works for MCC. Jenn will provide more information later; Kim suggested Word Press (free with small increase for everything). And is now involved

Marketing and publicity subcommittee - Live paintings, community

**Other**

Ancelin Wolfe was asked to help Jordan with the Strategic Plan

Jennifer ends meeting with anyone having an acknowledgement regarding the land we occupy being Wampanoag

Motion to adjourn made by Judy Moffat with Celeste Falcone and Gail 2nd, Unanimous.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:45 p,