

North Kingstown Arts Council

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Nancy Whyte Sherman - Chairperson, James Halley – Vice Chairperson, Gail Shawn Burda - Recording Secretary, Maria Carroccia, Fran Crete, Gerry Grabowski, Nora Hall, Kathleen McCarthy, Deborah Sabo, Donna Vanderbeck.

Excused Absences: Eleanor Acton, Robert Martone, Scott Monroe

Un-Excused Absents: None

Attendees: Ricky Thompson, Roberta Belanger

Zoom meeting hosted by Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director

1. **Call to order:** James Halley – Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson will be late.
2. **Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6©** Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State’s website.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve November 10, 2021 Minutes as written, made by Gerry Grabowski, seconded by Maria Carroccia.
 - a. Unanimous approval.
4. **Guests:** Ann Grady, PH. D., Executive Director
 - a. Ann was invited, by Nancy, to let the *Arts Council* know about her organization – *Rhode Island Youth Theater* (originally called *Fantasy Works*), which began in 1987.
 - Ann Grady told us that she doesn’t need funding from us for a project, at the moment, but would like to work with us in the future. Last year her group received a \$7,000 grant, from *RI CHARG*, which Ann said was the only thing that kept them going. Ann offered to help us write a grant to them and will help some of the groups looking for funding how to write grants. One project of Ann’s centered around the well-known Rune Rock in Old Library Park. They have been working with Tim Cranston, our Town Historian, who has written articles about the rock. The presentation is scheduled for August 27, 2022 2 to 4pm at the Band Shell, located at our Town Beach.
 - Their second project is *Beauty and the Beast* on June 25th & 26th 2022 (A Project Proposal previously funded by the Arts Council, our High School students will volunteer to help). Ann said that her first presentation was *Beauty and the Beast*, presented in North Kingstown, thirty-five years ago.
 - Ann is asking for help with publicity and she’s planning on being in the NK Memorial Day Parade, but doesn’t know where to get a flatbed truck for the participants to ride aboard. Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director, suggested that Ann contact Lindsey Dias, since she showcased the performances in the parade, for years.
 - Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director said that the cost for Covid cleaning after a performance and the lights has been incorporated into the cost for the show.

5. Financial Items: Nancy Whyte Sherman – Chairperson presented the Financial Report stating that we have a balance of \$11,589 in our account, with \$7,900 encumbered, which includes funds for the 6-28-2022 musical performance of *Take it to the Bridge* for \$1,600 and the 8-30-2022 musical performance of *Brass Attack* for \$1,650. (The Town’s Fiscal year begins on July 1st, so *Brass Attack*’s payment doesn’t need to come out of our account until August 30, 2022). Nancy included the deduction of the historically funded amount usually around \$3,900 (*Smith’s Castle* events through June, *Gilbert Stuart*’s Spring event funding and *Lafayette Band* are included in that amount), plus \$400 for RI Black Storytelling (RIBS)), leaving us with \$1,729 unencumbered, in our account.

- Motion to approve the Financial Report made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski.
- Unanimous approval

6. Publicity/Website: No report, Scott Monroe was absent.

7. Project Proposals:

a. Traveling the Silk Road #80409 Liaison: Nancy Whyte Sherman

- Sandra D. Makielski (Sandra_makielski@nksd.net) is the contact person, at Davisville Middle School (DMS).
- This is part of the 7th grade Social Studies curriculum at DMS. Students produce 4 to 6 shadow puppet performances for their community (Covid dependent). They will be working on the project from January 2022 - June 2022. The June presentation will be 1 pm and 6:30 pm.
- Theater production includes poetry, folktales, shadow puppets & drumming. Traditional Indian Dance, Drumming: Armenia & Mali, Korean Paper Artist.
- The total cost is \$5,700, they are requesting \$3,800 from the Arts Council.
- The Arts Council has limited funds, Nancy let Sandra know that the funding would be more like \$1,000.
- Motion to approve only \$1,000 of the \$3,800 requested, made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski.
- Unanimous approval.

b. Rhode Island Black Storytellers (RIBS), performance #80410

- Valerie Tutson (vtutson@yahoo.com), is the contact person. RIBS is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the awareness, appreciation and application of Black Storytelling in RI through: performance, educational and cultural experiences.
- She is requesting \$400 for the artist fee, for a 45 minute to 1 hour presentation, date/time and artist TBD.
- Motion to approve the requested sum of \$400.00 made by James Halley, seconded by Donna Vanderbeck.
- Unanimous approval.

8. Final Funding Forms: None

9. Old Business: None

10. New Business:

- a. Instead of Rose, in the Recreation Department, reviewing the contracts and following through with those performing at our *Tuesday Night Concerts* and *Thursday night Family Concerts*, the Arts Council will take on that task. Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, Recreation Director and Rose Pichette, Recreation Secretary, will provide training.
 - Chelsey also mentioned that the Recreation Dept. sends out a flyer with Recreation Summer news in the March water bills, which they started doing in 2021. If the Arts Council has all the entertainer's contracts signed and delivered to them by January 31st, she could include our concert information in that flyer. If we want to send out the concert schedule in the June water bills, it would cost around \$1,400 and they reach 2,800 residential homes.
 - It has been recommended that, in the future, we send out our concert contracts in November, so that we have them signed, sealed and delivered to us by January. The Town Council then has to approve the concert season. James (Jim) Halley and Deb Sabo volunteered to handle the *Tuesday Night Concert Series* entertainer's contracts and Gerry Grabowski volunteered to handle the *Thursday Night Family Concert* entertainers' contracts.
 - The help of at least one Arts Council member, at all *Tuesday Night Concerts*, is needed.
- b. Jim Halley and Debra Sabo will develop a map showing where the Food Trucks will be stationed, for the concerts.

11. Correspondence:

- a. Terry Shea will be submitting a Project Proposal for a stage performance and the only venue available, to him, is the *Academy Players* auditorium in Providence.

12 Adjournment: Nancy Whyte Sherman, Chairperson called for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm made by James Halley, seconded by Gerry Grabowski.

- Unanimous approval.

The Next Scheduled Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. (TBD as: either *Zoom*, or an in-person meeting)

Respectfully submitted by,

Gail Shawn Burda

Recording Secretary