

Town of Washington

Arts Council

Minutes

October 12, 2023- 7:00 pm

Bryan Town Hall main conference room and zoom

Members Present:

Abdo Ballester, Fran Keilty, Victoria Rowan

Guest: Jack Rosenberg

Staff: Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. Call to order 7:06
2. Consideration of the Minutes of September 14, 2023. Victoria moved and Abdo seconded the minutes. All in favor
3. Old Business
 - a. Cultural District- Jack Rosenberg is a resident of Washington, an artist, is on the board of ASAP and the Chair of the State Arts Council and the Chair of the State Arts Foundation. He reinforced the importance of being a Cultural District. The State Arts Council oversees the distribution of the NEA money coming into the state, last year \$65 million. Their role is a conduit and advocate for all the CT arts organizations. There are about 2,000 not-for profit arts organizations in CT. Establishing a Cultural District opens up all of the State money as well as the DECD. Steph Burr of the Northwest Arts Council is a great resource. Jack has offered to answer questions and be a resource. He feels Washington has a long history of being an arts community and is a great candidate for the Cultural District.
 - b. Recap of Photo Exhibit. Very positive feedback had roughly 100 people come through the opening. Sold 13 photos. Coming down on Friday. Will need to figure out what to do with the unsold photos. We also collected around 30 emails. Mandy will be helping set up for the Mailchimp account. There was enthusiasm for having future photo exhibits possibly a joint event with Steep Rock for their upcoming anniversary.
 - c. Recap of the Harvest Fest- we shared with the EDC and collected some emails. Abdo felt we could have something for next year that invites more participation and engagement. It could include an arts project for children and adult refreshment. Could also be selling something. We should start planning earlier next year.
 - d. We will work on the Cultural District. We need to work on the presentation and the map to have ready to present at the Public Hearing. We should also invite people who would support the Cultural District to speak in support at the hearing.

4. New Business

- a. Do we want to make Market bags/ pens with new logo? We feel it has already been done a lot. We could do a minimum run of 25 but are concerned about having some left over. Michelle needs the logo in high res to get quotes. Fran does not feel we will be able to sell at Holiday in the Depot. We discussed having an activity for Holiday in the Depot such as sponsoring an artist to perform or someone in costume handing out stuff. Mona Lisa painting or a photo booth. If not for Holiday in the Depot or for the Community Day.
- b. Discuss next initiative- arts programing for children, open studios tours. Northwest Arts Council had a successful Open Studio tour and maybe we would like to try one for Washington. Or tie into theirs if they have another. It is a lot of work. Could also try to create an event around all the studios one day or weekend. Thought about trying for something in February.

5. Public Comment

6. Adjournment- 8:20

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Gorra

Recording of the meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxJU6YuVmPA>