

Town of Fairfield
Minutes of the Fairfield Arts Commission Meeting

September 19, 2023

The Fairfield Arts Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of Sullivan Independence Hall located at 725 Old Post Road in Fairfield. The meeting was also held via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie MacDonald, Connor Deane, Christine Orlando, Matt Oestreicher, Katie Lang, Sam Goldstein, Kevin Gosselin, Lou Heumann

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sam Cargill

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, David Green, Erika Wesley (via zoom)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM.

The minutes from the August 8, 2023 Arts Commission Meeting was approved unanimously.

Chair MacDonald introduced David Green, the retiring Chair of the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County. Mr. Green provided background on the services and activities of the Cultural Alliance which supports over 500 artists, non-profits, and creative businesses from Greenwich to Shelton. The CAFC's primary role is to be a marketing source for all cultural activities in SW CT.

Mr. Green made a detailed presentation on the standards and criteria for what it takes to receive state designation as a cultural district. This included the process (determine municipal readiness, identify district boundaries, make application) and all the details within (walkability, accessibility, clear boundaries, community input, town vote to approve district's creation).

Five towns in CT have received Cultural District designation: Torrington, New London, Wethersfield, Bristol and Ridgefield.

Mr. Green's presentation was followed by a broad discussion on the commission's goals, objectives and next steps. After lengthy conversation, it was decided that a representative from Ridgefield's Arts Commission will be invited to attend the next meeting to share their experiences and learning from this process.

The commission also explored the idea of holding a meeting to allow artists and artistic organizations to voice their views on how best to provide them with support via the commission and the establishment of a cultural district.

The commission concluded with a conversation regarding our intentions and role. Each commissioner is asked to come to the next meeting (10.17.23) with two bullet points detailing their vision for how best the commission can serve the town and its constituents.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

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