

NAUGATUCK CULTURAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING-Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 6:00 PM
Naugatuck High School
543 Rubber Avenue, Naugatuck, Ct 06770

MINUTES

Attendees: Robin Gerber, Bree Prentice, Monroe Webster, Les Williams, Ed Carter, Vanessa Vowe, Sandra Heller and Bridget Mariano.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 with Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2012: Discussion of whether there should be information added to clarify issues when it was not discussed during the meeting i.e. dates etc. Spelling errors noted. Ed Cater made a motion to accept the minutes as is and Rober Gerber seconded. All voted in favor.

Leadership Team Report

Discussion about training being offered by Everyday Democracy, Jane Wood-Weber. There has been very few interested in participating in this training from committee members more due to time constraints. Sandra will ask Jane to postpone and offer again later as things come up and we need her help. Most people have time constraints to make meetings as they are.

Discussion of Minutes/Agendas for committee meetings:

Ed Carter reported that agendas for the monthly meeting and committee meetings should be sent out 24 hours ahead of time. Minutes don't have the time constraints. Ideally should be added to the web page at the town only after they have been approved at regular meeting. Web page needs updated information as well. Sandra will work with officers to send Ed new leadership/officers info and committees to have posted on web page. Les Williams offered to make a new flyer with updated information as well, based on the old flyer. Discussion about using facebook for our communications etc and asking the web master for the town, Jim, to create more pages if needed. Ed Carter thinks that is possible by sending what we want to Jim.

Committee Reports:

Leadership Development-Tracy Joseph not in attendance. Sandra reported for Tracy-No new information to report at this time. Meeting will be held next week on Monday, July 23rd at Town Hall at 7 pm.

Cultural Activities and Awareness-Les Williams. Committee has met once and will be meeting again tonight. Meeting minutes were made available. Many ideas are being generated and a mission statement is in process of being developed. Action idea that group has decided to pursue is an Evening Farmer's Market with

multicultural dance, music and food. The plan is to have the event on a week night. Ed suggests contacting the Naugatuck Arts Commission to work with them regarding establishing a venue and possibly partner with an already existing event. Last year the Arts Commission had an Arts day in September, which was very successful. They are having this event again this year. The committee will work on making contacts to develop collaboration.

Environmental Initiatives-Robin Gerber/Bree Prentice. Bree presented the mission statement which was distributed. In the process of reaching out to existing groups in the community who already have a role in environmental issues also to establish collaborative relationships. Robin asked questions about liability issues in creating a community garden. Ed reported that the borough will cover liability issues for the community garden. Also in order to establish the site the committee representative should contact the parks department. New member of the group is Melissa Leanard. Also Bree has made contact with Lena – Minister at Salem Lutheran Church, who is interested in getting involved with community garden. She has a background in environmental issues. Next meeting is August 29th 6 pm location TBA.

Telling Our Stories-Request volunteer for next meeting-Last meeting Chin Sounanthnam shared her personal story after the meeting in the Gazebo on the green. Those who attended were fascinated and moved by her story. Much appreciation to Chin for sharing her life with us. Volunteers are welcome to tell their story at future meetings, contact Sandra if you are willing.

Next Steps- Continue to move forward with committee work and make information about changes, committees available on town web page, facebook and Patch community calendar.

Adjournment:

Ed Carter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Monroe. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:10. Next REGULAR MEETING-Wednesday, August 15, 2012, 6:00 PM, Naugatuck High School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Heller
Chair, Naugatuck Cultural Council