

NAUGATUCK CULTURAL COUNCIL

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Town Hall, Mayor's Conference Room
229 Church Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770

Attendees: Frank Alcorace, Lisa D'Andrea, Sandra Heller, Melissa Leonard, Chin Sounanthanam, Vanessa Vowe, Aaron Williams, and Les Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chair Sandra Heller.

Les Williams volunteered to take the minutes.

Unanimous approval to add "New Business" to the agenda—Motion by Sandra Heller/Second (2nd) by Les Williams.

Unanimous approval of Minutes of April 25, 2013 with the following addition: add Sandra Heller to the list of meeting attendees—Motion by Les Williams/Second (2nd) by Sandra Heller.

Leadership Team Report

- Outreach: There was consensus that there is a need for more members on the Cultural Council. It was decided to hold a separate meeting to work on an outreach plan. A meeting date will be determined and an invitation sent out to the whole Council. Also, we should connect with the Arts Commission's Facebook page. The Cultural Council had a Facebook page, but we should look into this. Chin Sounanthanam will start one.
- Logo: There was considerable discussion about how to develop a logo for the Cultural Council. It was decided to hold a contest for the best logo concept to involve as many people as possible. The contest would kick off at the Arts and Cultural Festival on August 24 where people could draw a logo at the Cultural Council's table. Then an invitation to students at the high school and middle schools could be extended as well at the start of school. If someone has a good concept, we could help to develop the artwork further. The deadline for submissions would be October 1 and then the Council members would judge submissions at the October meeting. Les suggested that criteria be established. Sandra will put together a press release and send it to Frank Alcorace for input on format requirements, such as size, etc.

Committee Reports:

- Cultural Activities and Awareness: There was an update on planning for the Naugatuck Arts and Cultural Festival on August 24. Lawn signs and posters will be available for pick up from Lisa D'Andrea on August 1. The Cultural Council will need to set up volunteer shifts; more volunteers needed. Chin is working on updating the Council's brochure. Set up will be Friday night and Saturday morning starting at 8 a.m.

- Environmental Initiatives: Melissa Leonard reported that membership on this committee has dwindled; and, therefore, it has been impossible to hold meetings. Felipe Flores has stepped down as chair. As a result of the lack of participation on this committee;

Unanimous approval to disband the Environmental Initiatives Committee-- Motion by Melissa Leonard/Second (2nd) by Sandra Heller.

At 7:07 p.m., Les Williams had to leave the meeting, so Vanessa Vowe took over the taking of the meeting minutes.

- Youth Leadership Development: This committee is working to get youth involved. Roberta Buckmiller, who teaches the teen leadership class at the high school, attended the last meeting. The committee is sending a letter inviting youth to help plan an open house/meet and greet and a roundtable discussion. They will also be invited to help with the Arts and Cultural Festival. In addition, Sandra would like to secure grant money to help pay for mailings and other expenses. Chin suggested sending the letter with the schools' back-to-school mailing. The next meeting will be July 31 at 6 p.m., location to be determined.

Community Concerns/Past and Upcoming Events:

- Cultural Heritage Night, May 15, 6-8 p.m., City Hill Middle School: Sandra reported that Mary Johnson and many volunteers did a great job on this event. It included a video made by high school students showing diverse school children in Naugatuck.
- Meet Your Neighbors (Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?) June 12, 6-7:30 p.m., Naugatuck Historical Society: also organized by Mary Johnson, the Cultural Council had a table at this event for newcomers to the district as well as English Language Learners.
- Arts and Cultural Festival, August 24, on The Green: see report under Cultural Activities and Awareness.
- Telling Our Stories: We are hoping to have Telling Our Stories at the Arts and Cultural Festival, but nothing has been set yet. Chin suggested maybe having something at the library.

New Business: None

Next Steps: Plan upcoming Cultural Council meetings and focus. Also a meeting for outreach planning will be set.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Williams and Vanessa Vowe