

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, 07 January 2014
Mansfield Community Center (MCC) Conference Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 5:03p by Kim Bova. *Members present:* Kim Bova, Tom Bruhn, Anke Finger, Scott Lehmann, David Vaughan. *Members absent:* none. *Others present:* Jay O'Keefe (staff), Cynthia van Zelm (Downtown Partnership).

2. The draft **minutes** of the meetings of 03 December 13 meeting were approved as written.

3. Town Square art. Cynthia van Zelm reported that work on the Town Square enclosed by Dog Lane, Royce Circle, and Storrs Road is now under way; if all goes well, it should be ready for use at this year's end-of-summer Festival on the Green. The Downtown Partnership would like to have artwork in the Square – there is room for three refrigerator-sized pieces – and is seeking advice on how to proceed.

The Square's landscape architect, who has worked with a firm that produces public art, has sketched some schematic ideas ("Public Arts Concepts") for artworks. Jay distributed literature on a park in Golden, CO, adorned with sculpture that honors the town's heritage and public figures.

Committee members agreed that inviting local artists to submit proposals to the Downtown Partnership would be preferable to having the architect decide what art would be created and by whom. Ms. van Zelm would like the local arts community represented by someone – perhaps a member of the Arts Advisory Committee – on the committee that is overseeing development of the Square for the Partnership, and the Committee agreed that this would be desirable.

The Storrs Center developer and the University are paying for the Square's construction but not for extras like a performance stage, film screen, or artworks, for which private contributions will be sought. Tom asked whether the project qualifies for the "One percent for the arts" program for state building projects; if so, plans for artwork would have to go through the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Ms. van Zelm will look into this.

4. Committee vacancies. No one had any progress to report on finding likely candidates for the two Committee vacancies.

5. Town support for the arts. Jay reported that the Town has no special-events budget, though it does support certain events by providing services (police, facilities, photocopying, etc.) at no charge. To apply for special-events funding through the budget process, the Committee should describe the proposed event, explain why it would be desirable, and supply a budget (how much money is required and for what, how much the Town is being asked to contribute, and where the rest of the funding is to be obtained – admissions? contributions solicited from businesses?). Our request would go through the Parks and Recreation Department and should be submitted no later than our February meeting. Jay believes a worthy request for an amount within the \$500 that has been budgeted for the Committee every year (and rarely spent) would probably go through.

David proposed an outdoor summer concert by the Windham Concert Band, for which perhaps \$300 might be asked from the Town, with supplementary contributions from businesses. Jay recalled that the Town has in the past sponsored concerts by this group under Lloyd Schmidt at the Gurleyville Grist Mill and Mansfield Middle School. The Committee agreed that such a concert, perhaps at E.O. Smith or the Middle School, would be a worthwhile addition to the Parks and Recreation Department's series of summer concerts, recently involving much smaller ensembles. David will draft a proposal for review at the February meeting.

6. MCC exhibits.

- a.** Jay reported that **Guocun Yang**, who apparently missed seeing Tom’s e-mails to him, seems to have taken offense at not hearing from the Committee and may no longer be interested in exhibiting his woven infant carriers from China.
- b.** Kim reported that **Sherrie Gage**, who teaches a ceramics class for adults at the Community School of the Arts, will organize an exhibit of tiles, bowls and sculptural forms made by class members for April. The Committee will need to see photos before it goes into the display cases.
- c.** **Janice Trecker** will remove her paintings on 14 January, weather permitting. **David Corsini** has been reminded to install his assemblages in the display cases on 15 January.
- d.** David thinks **Nancy Shay** of Pomfret may be interested in exhibiting paintings; he will send her an application.
- e.** Tom suggested **Roger Crossgrove** might be amenable to exhibiting suitable works at the MCC; he will make an inquiry.

Exhibit Period	Entry cases		Sitting room		Hallway	
	Double-sided	Shelves	Upper (5)	Lower (3)	Long (5)	Short (2)
01 Sep – 14 Jan	<i>Festival on the Green advertising & art show</i>				<i>Janice Trecker (paintings)</i>	
15 Oct – 14 Jan						
15 Jan – 14 Apr	<i>David Corsini (assemblages)</i>					

7. Adjourned at 5:58p. Next meeting: **5:00p**, Tuesday, 04 February 2014.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 08 January 2014; approved 04 February 2014.