



## CHESHIRE PERFORMING FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

1220 Waterbury Road • Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

Phone 203.272.ARTS (2787) FAX 203.699-8857

### CHESHIRE PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009, 7:45 PM  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL  
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, ROOM 207  
CHESHIRE, CT**

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Donna Mark  
Roxie Gordon  
Hilary Rutberg  
Donna Lodynsky  
Denise Lohr  
Pat Pfurr  
Ophelia Frazier

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Nancy Burt  
Nancy Bussmann  
Bob Averack  
Jackie Townes

#### **Others Present:**

Joan Pilarczyk, Artsplace Director  
Sandy Petela, Deputy Director, Parks & Rec  
Elizabeth Cressy, Friends of Artsplace

#### **1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was present for this meeting.

#### **2. CALL TO ORDER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The meeting was started late due to the Committee's attendance at the early portion of the Town Council meeting, where the Annual Arts Award was presented to Elizabeth Cressy. Chairwoman Lodynsky called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was done earlier at the Town Council meeting.

#### **3. WELCOME AND REMARKS – Donna Lodynsky, Chair**

Chairwoman Lodynsky welcomed Ms. Cressy and again congratulated her on the Annual Arts Award. She also welcomed Pam Averack, CYT Producer.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

No public communications were announced.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF APRIL 21 2009, MINUTES**

Page 2, item 9, paragraph 2, first line should read "...with 238 students." Page 4, item 12, subitem "a," third line should read "...by Chris Bohjalian Wednesday April 22...."

Denise Lohr made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Hilary Rutberg seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept.





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### 6. **TREASURER'S REPORT – Ophelia Frazier**

Approximately 80% of this year's budget has been expended, which is on target. Once the breakdown on the gift account is available, status will be reported (unidentified \$1500 expenditure may be awnings). Pat Pfurr made a motion to accept the report, Roxie Gordon seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept.

### 7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT – Roxie Gordon**

Ms. Gordon reported the purchase of a \$50 gift certificate from the Chamber of Commerce for Gene Caraballo, Artsplace Building Supervisor, which was sent to his home.

### 8. **ARTSPPLACE REPORT – Joan Pilarczyk**

- a. **Spring Classes** – Classes are proceeding as normal. One final deposit (~\$600) remains to be made.
- b. **Summer Classes** – Only 10 people have registered to date, but it is still very early.
- c. The Registrar of Voters has offered two metal storage cabinets to Artsplace; we will ask for both.
- d. The new spring office hours are working well, especially with help from volunteers Ann Hearn, who is helping especially with press, and Rita Sarris, who is helping with a variety of tasks. We will have an intern from Sacred Heart Academy (High School) in Hamden, Lisa Edwards, who will work a minimum of 80 hours this summer. May 18 is Kelly Mastrianna's (college intern from ECSU) last day.
- e. **Boulder Knoll Sign** – Thanks were expressed on behalf of the Boulder Knoll Farm for the sign painted for this sustainable farming project. The sign was completed with help from children during the Art Challenge and during Artsplace class.
- f. Thanks were expressed to Pam Averack for the wonderful letter she sent to CYT participants after some building use issues.
- g. There is a town-wide art show at Chapman School, on Friday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Artsplace is donating a \$50 gift certificate.
- h. The Cheshire Art League Art Show is May 13 at 7:30 p.m.; several Artsplace teachers and students won awards.
- i. **Beautification Committee** – Kevin Simmons from Parks & Rec is installing lattice screens in front of the oil tank and air conditioning units. The drip irrigation system is hooked up and operating, and the dogwood tree has been replaced by members of the Cheshire Garden Club.
- j. **Pina Jaroslow Scholarship** – No applications have been received at Artsplace, but a month remains before the deadline.





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### 9. THEATRE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Pam Averack

- a. **Rehearsals** – Rehearsals are going well and each of the lead staff (Dana, Kim, and Lenny) say that the children are progressing nicely. Seventy children are participating; only two have dropped. A new costumer has been hired; she will prepare 170 cast costumes, plus lead costumes, for a budget of \$1,100.
- b. **Memorial Day Parade** – Ms. Averack called Lyon & Billard to confirm reservation of flatbed. Terri LaChance is doing a nice job of preparing everyone to decorate the float. The children will create decorations on May 17 after rehearsal. Participants will meet at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, May 204, at Highland School to attach decorations and prepare for the parade. Parents and staff are welcome to join the march.
- c. **Financial** – All records for deposit of tuition and script fees were prepared May 12 with Cathy at Parks & Rec; deposit amount was \$13,934. After an earlier discussion with Chairwoman Lodynsky and members of the CPFA Theater subcommittee, Ms. Averack set aside \$100 from script fees for “petty cash”; this money will be held in the safe at Parks & Rec to be used as needed, with receipts to be returned to Ms. Averack.
- d. **Advertising** – Caroline Condon and her volunteer advertising committee are doing a great job; they have already sold the interior and exterior back covers.
- e. **Miscellaneous** – Oversized Seussical set pieces are causing storage problems for Dana Sachs, Set Shop Manager. Bob Ceccolini is looking for alternative storage space for these pieces. Terri LaChance asked Ms. Averack to thank Ms. Lodynsky, Ms. Pilarczyk, and others who helped prepare props on May 3. The lollipops were delivered and everyone loves them. A call was sent out to parents for props on the list. All committees have a contact person assigned.
- f. **Zombie Prom** – The first production meeting was held May 12 at Artsplace from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Auditions will be held on Sunday and Monday, May 17 and 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Artsplace. Facebook is being used to recruit cast members.

### 10. FRIENDS OF CPFA/ARTSPLACE – Elizabeth Cressy

Ms. Pilarczyk received a letter from the Town Environmental Planner, who was pleased with the increase in participants in the Earth Day-related events as a result of promotion from the placemats provided to local restaurants by Friends on behalf of CROBOT.

Ms. Cressy met with Ms. Pilarczyk regarding the Kensett project. Shuang Zhou, the artist painting the Kensett portrait, is proceeding well with the piece. A group attended the David Dunlap talk on Kensett at the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA), where Mr. Dunlap discussed Kensett’s art. Mr. Dunlap has a DVD series on painting landscapes. Friends authorized the expenditure and purchased the series, and immediately loaned the DVDs to Ms. Zhou. There was discussion of having Mr. Dunlap come to Cheshire for a lecture, presentation, or other event.





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Ms. Cressy has secured an author to come for this year's Author Event on Thursday, October 1 (earlier than usual). She will send a letter announcement to paid Friends' members soon. Ms. Pilarczyk and Ms. Cressy are also discussing encore evenings with authors who have previously participated in Author Events. Ms. Cressy is hoping to assemble a Friends and Board committee for future Kensett and author events.

Friends has approved an expenditure to plant new flowers in the "window boxes" on the handicap ramp at Artsplace, and has given a donation to Cheshire Art League.

Ms. Pilarczyk mentioned how the "Cheshire contingent" doubled the number of attendees at the NBMAA's Dunlap event, thanks to Ms. Cressy's encouragement.

Heather Whitehouse at NBMAA can have duplicated one Kensett painting (owned by the museum); the image can be used to encourage folks to visit the museum (e.g., via passes). They will try to network with other museums.

Ms. Pilarczyk suggested that the group not hold a Gala this year, but maybe rather hold an event related to Kensett, showing a movie or similar.

### 11. OLD BUSINESS

#### a. Art Challenge – Donna Mark

Ms. Mark distributed a sheet with Art Challenge preliminary financial information. There may be an error, and the tally does not include the \$500 prize; however, it appears that the proceeds will be approximately \$2,000 net, which will be deposited to the Gift Account for the amphitheatre. Ms. Mark will continue to fine-tune expenses and report when complete.

Chairwoman Lodynsky thanked Donna Mark, chair of the Art Challenge, Hilary Rutberg, cochair, and Joan Pilarczyk for their countless hours spent on the Art Challenge. She also thanked Pat Pfurr for securing venues for display of the art entries. Ms. Pilarczyk sent a "thank you" letter to Diagnostic Radiology Associates (event sponsor), accompanying the winning adult artwork, which they can display in their office for approximately 3 months, as well as an Art Challenge event display piece).

"Lessons learned" on the challenge included the following:

- Staff were spread too thin with both the Adult and Children challenges taking place concurrently; should have just run one or the other.
- Sufficient enthusiasm was not generated, probably because of lack of publicity; people didn't understand what the challenge was all about.
- Next time, bidding should be done at the display venues.

Chairwoman Lodynsky commented that the challenge was a good learning experience, tweaked on daily basis, good for a first shot, and brought new people to Artsplace. The question arose as to what to do with remaining kits; adult kits may be placed in the





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Artsplace shed; a location for the children's kits still needs to be determined. Ms. Pilarczyk suggested doing the Metalworks Art Challenge again next year, using the remaining adult kits; the entry forms in the kits can be replaced with new, and a 2010 label can be placed over the 2009 label. The paper bags containing the children's kits may not survive, and may need to be replaced next year.

It was suggested that the next challenge be done in conjunction with the Fall Festival; discussion will continue on that idea.

### 12. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Nomination of Officers – Donna Lodynsky

Chairwoman Lodynsky appointed Ms. Rutberg as head of the Nominating Committee for new officers. Ms. Rutberg presented the slate of existing officers, with a request for anyone wanting to nominate or become an officer to contact her.

b. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m. at Artsplace.

### 13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Lodynsky adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Elizabeth G. Augustine  
Interim Recording Secretary

