



Middletown Committee for the Arts

Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2011 at 5:00 pm

Gaudet School Library. Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI 02842

Those in attendance: Linda Phelan, chair; Amy Cordeiro, Vice-Chair; Susan Woythaler, secretary; Diana Skaggs, Diane Kerins, Lisa Hansel, Nancy McAuliffe.

Those absent: Diane Andrews, Richard Cambra, liaison to the Town Council; Shaylah Morse, student representative

❖ Call to Order

Linda Phelan, chair, called the minute to order at 5:08PM.

❖ Motion to approve previous Minutes of February 7th Meeting with the noted corrections.

Motion made by Linda Phelan second by Diane Kerins; unanimously passed

❖ Celebration of the Arts 2011 review.

Susan expressed her concerns about having a big celebration event in August. Perhaps having a smaller event such as a town-wide children and adult art exhibit would be better for the 1st year. Then we could “build” on the success of that event. This would give us an indication of the interest and support that is in Middletown. Also, more “lead” time is needed to garner sponsorship, grants and participation from artists, especially since summer is a very busy time. Lisa agreed that more “lead” time is preferable. We should think about taking the arts to the people...for example have “arts surprises”dancers on the beach, strolling musicians...perhaps we could collaborate with the Bon-Fire committee and create a “family weekend” at the beach. Diane Kerins thought the idea of “arts surprises” would also be a good way to “advertise” the event. Nancy suggested the title “BeachFest”!

- **Venue confirmation/Date**—approval for the event will be on the Town Council agenda on March 21, 2011
- **Fee and permit updates**—these will be “covered” by the Town and Newport Tent Company
- **Call to Artists review**---reviewed and corrected—see attached

- **Delegation of responsibilities--**
 - **Publicity opportunities**—will be handled by Carmela Geer
 - **Anticipated operating fees**—we don't know yet. There will be a "budget line" in the Town budget for the Arts Committee
 - **Tent/Port-a-Johns**—will be covered by Newport Tent Company
 - **Fees and Expenses**—the vendors fee is \$25.00; no entrance fee for attendees
 - **Silent Auction vs. Raffle**—several ideas were discussed—perhaps have "timed" silent auctions and raffles....
 - **Flyers/Banners for Advertising**—Lisa Hansel and Diane Kerins have volunteered to create a design for a flyer that can also be used for a banner. Carmela suggested that one be placed on the fence at Gaudet Field near the tennis court. Linda suggested using "Vistaprint.com"
 - **Schedule of Events**—on hold
- ❖ Possible Committee opportunities for summer and fall 2011
- Discussed Shantel Baily Day—agreed that it isn't within the realm of the committee's mission
- ❖ Old Business
- Web site update—Carmela reported that the MiddletownRI.com web-site is undergoing a "face-lift" and that the Arts page will be updated when that is completed.
- ❖ New Business
- Motion: Linda Phelan made the motion: "It is the goal of the Arts Committee to have 21 artisans by June 1, 2011, if not, then we will "regroup". 2nd by Amy Cordeiro. Unanimously passed.
 - Motion: Carmel Geer made the motion: "To have a sub-committee write the 'open call for performers'." 2nd by Diane Kerins. Unanimously passed. The sub-committee is Linda Phelan and Amy Cordeiro.
- ❖ Other
- Carmela shared that March is "Music in the Schools" month and that there have been a lot of concerts by students and musician artists performing for the students. Lunchtime concerts called "Music to Munch By" have been held at the schools.
 - Diane Kerins said that the annual K-12 Arts Show will be at Aquidneck School May 16-20 with the opening reception of May 17 from 5:30PM-7:30PM.

- Brief report from the Newport County Arts & Cultural Alliance meeting of February 15, 2011.
 - **Spring into Art** event will be held April 16, 23, 2011. It will showcase venues, speakers and artists.
 - **Arts Scene**—3 TV shows a month on channels 18 & 17. They are working with kids from the MET school. Help is needed in editing the tapes
 - **Arts Around the Fire**—held the 4th Tuesday of the month...but, this month it will be Tuesday March 15, 2011 at the Clarke Cook House
 - **Annual Meeting March 24** will be held at the Newport Art Museum at 6PM. There will be a panel discussion, “A Place for Artists in Our Communities”reps from various Newport County arts centers and councils will be on the panel. Linda Phelan will represent the Middletown Committee for the Arts. The meeting is open to all. It is free to members and \$10 for others. Membership is \$20. Check out: www.NewportArts.org
 - **BridgeFest** will be held the week between the Jazz and Folk festivals, to celebrate local musicians and venues—Kings Park Music; City of Newport at Easton’s’ Beach; Rock the Docks in Newport.
 - **The Newport Arts Festival** will be held at the Newport Yachting Center August 27-28, 2011. Check out: www.NewportArtsFestival.com
 - **Next meeting of the Newport County Arts & Cultural Alliance** will be March 15, 2011 at 8:30am at the Preservation Society Headquarters. Nancy McAuliffe will attend.
 - **SPLASH**—an e-mail blast publication about arts events.

- ❖ Next Scheduled Meeting April 11, 2011; 5:00PM to be held in the Gaudet Middle School Library

- ❖ Adjourn Meeting—Meeting adjourned at 6:35PM

Respectfully submitted by: Susan Woythaler, secretary