



Middletown Committee for the Arts

Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2011 at 5:00 pm

Middletown Public Library . East Main Road . Middletown, RI 02842

Those present: Linda Phelan, Diana Skaggs, Rod O'Hanley, Carmela Geer, Sharon Morgera, Diane Andrews, Lisa Hansel, Diane Kerins

Those absent: Amy Cordeiro, Richard Cambra

- ❖ Call to Order
 - Meeting was called to order at 5:02pm
- ❖ Review and Approval of September 12, 2011 Minutes
 - Minutes approved unanimously
- ❖ Nomination of new Secretary
 - Carmela Geer was nominated and elected the new secretary for the group.
- ❖ Group discussion on moving the committee's mission forward.
 - Mission Statement:
 - **The Mission of the Middletown Committee for the Arts is to support, to create and to promote the Arts within our community, while contributing to the cultural enrichment of Middletown's own economy. Also, we envision a Middletown where the Arts and artists thrive and are wholly integrated in the socio-economic fabric of the community, contributing in unique and multi-faceted ways while sharing in community responsibilities.**
 - Linda asked the group if the Committee wanted to partner or collaborate with the Healing CoOp's HOPE Project (Honoring Our Personal Experience) which incorporates dance performance and an art exhibit at the Jane Picken's theatre. This project is a part of the Common Ground Grant that the CoOp has applied for through the Newport Count Fund. The collaboration would be in the form of encouraging talent to participate. The timeline for the proposed event is for next year with an event in early Fall.

- The group is interested in gleaning from our TC liaison if the Committee can engage in providing collaborative support to not for profits, like the Healing CoOp in this fashion. If so, the group moved unanimously to support the Healing CoOp’s HOPE Project as a Liaison to the Middletown Arts Community
 - Bringing the Arts into the community/schools/underserved areas
 - The group discussed the fact that the Celebration of the Arts was very successful in bringing the community, school and the underserved together in one place.
 - During this time that the committee is not meeting, it was discussed that this would be a good time for us as a group and as individuals to promote what is already going on in our community to reach as many people as possible.
 - There was an idea of “endorsing” arts related events through a needed vehicle that could support these events publicly. The endorsement could be placed on the programs for the events that came up on our radar. The question is, however, how would an endorsement work? How do we put some teeth in our endorsement?
 - The group felt that a continually up to date webpage could help to promote said activities and keep a database of artists. With a differentiation between referrals and endorsements to include a disclaimer that the committee is not responsible for the work of said artists.
 - Build Middletown Artist database (see above)
 - Hanging of Community Weaving in Town Hall
 - At the Town Council meeting November 7th the hanging of the Community Weaving will be presented to the Town Council and hung in Town Hall.
 - Establishing a Multi-Purpose Arts Center as described in 2010 survey
 - Discussion: that the committee may want to advocate to be a part of the West Side redevelopment plan by siting the part of our mission that reads, “**where the Arts and artists thrive and are wholly integrated in the socio-economic fabric of the community**” in the hopes of including an arts venue to the municipal administration building.
 - Designing an independent web site through the Town’s site
 - The committee is looking to receive an update on where the Town is with the website’s upgrade so that we could get to work on it
 - 15 Mile Artist
 - This web-based domain name is registered in the event that the committee wants to move forward with it in the future.

❖ Old Business

- Mailing of Event Thank-You’s
 - Already out in mailboxes

❖ New Business

- Independent assignments during committee break.
 - The committee was asked to take this break to get creative and think about ways to continue move our mission forward through programming, communication tools and new ideas.
 - Newsletters
 - Endorsements
 - Programming

❖ Next Scheduled Meeting January 9, 2012

❖ Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm