

Brattleboro Town Arts Committee
January 12, 2016
Hannah Cosman Room
Minutes prepared by Angel Francia-Mackinnon

Meeting called to order at 8:08 am

Members present: Adam Salviani (chair), Kate Anderson, Angel Francia-Mackinnon (scribe), T. Namaya, Donna Macomber (Selectboard liaison)

Motion to approve minutes from December

Approved 4-0

No public participation

Review of Updated Press Release

- Namaya offered to reach out to local writers and artists to do their own write-ups to send out to travel magazines, to emphasize the diversity of our creative community.
- TAC will send out quarterly press releases to New England publications.
- Coordinated efforts with ACWC, who will send out more frequent and specific press releases.

Anderson moved to approve the press release

Approved 4-0

Francia-Mackinnon spoke of *progress with the planning committee of ACWC's ARTstravanza celebration in May*

- Coordinating slideshow to highlight local creative talents.
- Many performing and literary artists will be showcased.
- To share work, send images to Angel at AngelGrace.Arts@gmail.com

Anderson told TAC that she has been working with Shanta Lee Crowley of ACWC on a 12-week course for artists to develop an aptitude for entrepreneurship through UMass Amherst. The project currently needs funding.

Anderson gave an *update on the Latchis Arts project*, an initiative to develop, showcase, and promote a comprehensive Arts & Culture calendar for Brattleboro.

- The calendar is meant to support economic development.
- She said that there are currently 25 independently functioning calendars of the sort in the area.
- TAC ponders how we can be of assistance in integrating these calendars.

Salviani shared the *proposal for a Promotions Committee* that he has been working on with Dick DeGray. They plan to bring it to the Selectboard in February.

- The concept is to dedicate the surplus from the Meals & Rooms tax to promoting small businesses and artists of Brattleboro.

-The proposal was designed so that it would not impact the town budget, but would help meet the goal of funding a Promotions Committee.

-"It is not an expense, it is an investment."

-The Promotions Committee would have representatives from multiple local organizations, including TAC.

Anderson moves to approve and endorse the proposal

Approval 4-0

Artist Funding Project Update

-With minimal interest from local banks in the project, TAC is looking at the fact that there is currently a town grant that supports small businesses, and maybe it can add an arts subsection.

-These would be loans without credit requirements.

Other Business

TAC will move forward in inviting several of the local organizations who currently have or plan on creating an Arts calendar, and talk about the possibility of a unified calendar.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am