

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Waukegan Park District
Jack Benny Center for the Arts
Cultural Arts Advisory Committee Meeting
October 29, 2015
12:00pm meeting
Lilac Cottage
1911 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60087

- I. Call to Order
Cultural Arts Superintendent, Claudia Freeman, called the meeting to order at 12:07pm
- II. Roll Call & Introductions
In attendance were Patricia Foley, Park Commissioner-President; Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts; Ty Rohrer, Cultural Arts Museum Supervisor; Debra Carl, Cultural Arts Specialist; Elizabeth Fallon, Department Support Aide; Harry Came, President of the Waukegan Historical Society; Roxanne Swanson, WSO & JBC Music Instructor, Jane Waller, and Betsy Stiles
- III. Review, Discuss, Decide
 - A. Review of community engagement discussion, strategic plan, partnerships and the state of the arts in Waukegan
 - Discussion around the topic of cultural appreciation vs cultural appropriation
 - ideas for continuing engagement within the community
 - Develop a focus group of student users
 - Work within WPS Dist. 60 community
 - Engaging school principals is key
 - Getting information to teachers – email or Superintendent Bulletin
 - Getting flyers and information to students
 - Partnership with other Arts Groups
 - Current partnerships: Waukegan Band Foundation, ArtWise, Lake County Community Concert Assoc., Concert Call, Waukegan Arts Council, CAG, Citadel, Clockwise, Waukegan Historical Society, Cultural Arts Advisory Committee
 - Waukegan Chamber Music Society – Betsy Stiles can be a contact for this group
 - Cultural Arts Advisory Committee will be adding two new members
 - any current members who know someone who might interested please pass their names on to Claudia
 - Listening to patrons, students, and advisory group
 - Act as an incubator for new ideas
 - Mobile tech engagement
 - New website and web registration will be mobile friendly
 - Newly developed brochure will be in homes in November
 - Please give feedback on what you think of the new brochure design Providing our community with qualified and contemporary instructors and programs
 - Developing signage with CAG using grant funding to be placed at the Ravine and Harbor which engage and teach the community about the natural and historical aspects of the land

- Jane Waller provided WAC update: annual arts event with the theme “Those Who Serve” has been well received so far with 3000 people viewing exhibit at Urban Edge, poignant theatrical productions at BPTC and Clockwise, WPL book display, still to come Nov 5 book signing and Nov 11 events with the parade. The WAC raised \$50,000 to provide funds for this year’s event. Looking ahead to next year and considering themes that revolve around Lake Michigan or National Hispanic Cultural month.
- B. Updates on the state of the State and impact of the budget crisis on local agencies and organizations
- IACA and Arts Alliance of IL held their Bi-Annual conference, One State Together in the Arts, in Evanston.
 - All state museums are closed and all state employees who work for the arts are concerned about the future of the arts and jobs.
- C. Local Arts Initiatives
- Cooke Magnet School is competing for a \$5000 prize from Kris Wine to be awarded to the school with the most online votes by Oct 31. Cooke school is in 2nd place and needs everyone to vote. Each person can vote once per day. Voting is online.
 - WPD events and activities (see flyers handed out):
 - WCC A Holiday Celebration Concert on Nov 15
 - COOL collection for Veterans – JBC is a drop off location for personal care items
 - Cultural Arts brochure lists the full season of events
 - History flyer highlighting events and museum
 - Current exhibit of Albert Klein’s WWII photography runs through Nov 11
 - Recycle Event on Nov 7 will be taking musical instruments with the exception of pianos, percussion, and guitars
 - Working with A-Major Music in providing any needed repair before distributing the instruments to students
 - Looking to collaborate with a local artist to turn any non-repairable instruments into sculpture
 - Ravinia Music Grant awarded to 3 Waukegan elementary schools which will provide professional instrumental instruction to 4th & 5th graders.
- D. Summer Arts in the Parks and events
- Report from Debra:
 - Arts Parks: over the summer 1792 people attended Arts Parks events, this summer there were 3 part time staff hired to work Arts Parks events, the inclement weather played a big factor in decreased attendance, Arts Parks were at each Tuesday evening Waukegan Band concert at the lakefront which was well received,
 - Summer Stories: something new that was tried and not expected to do again next summer due to low participation
 - Music at Washington Park: two concerts, Latino Music with Cooke Mariachi Band and Flamenco, and Dixieland Brass Concert. Arts Parks van also went to each concert. Report from Ty:
 - Dandelion Wine kicked off summer with a great event, well attended
 - Tours and Guided walks going well
 - Cemetery Walk was very successful with participation numbers up from previous years, patrons enjoyed the theme connecting all the actors and information, go to YouTube to see last year’s Cemetery Walk and this years will be up on YouTube soon

E. Waukegan Park District Update

- Tuesday, Oct 27, was the ground breaking for the new indoor pool at Hinkston Park/Field House
- Bowen Park Renovation has begun with the Morrison Shelter renovation work completed and items to be completed are the frog pond boardwalk, ravine signage, parking lot rain garden, and woodland garden
- Strategic Plan goal of instituting new traditions have included Day of the Dead which is now in its 5th year and Christmas in July for 2 years
 - Open to ideas and suggestions for other events that could become new traditions
 - Pat Foley suggested a Waukegan Children's Choir

IV. Next Meeting – March 31, 2016

- Next year's meetings in will be September 29, 2016 & March 30, 2017

V. Meeting adjourned at 1:27pm

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Waukegan Park District
Jack Benny Center for the Arts
Cultural Arts Advisory Committee Meeting
October 29, 2015
6:00pm meeting
Lilac Cottage
1911 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60087

VI. Call to Order

Waukegan Park District Board President, Patricia Foley, called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

VII. Roll Call & Introductions

In attendance were Patricia Foley, Park Commissioner President; Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts; Ty Rohrer, Cultural Arts Museum Supervisor; Debra Carl, Cultural Arts Specialist; Elizabeth Fallon, Department Support Aide; MaryFran Troha, and Martha Padilla-Ramos

Motion made by Freeman to move item III.D., Debra's report, to top of the agenda with 2nd by Foley. Motion carried.

VIII. Review, Discuss, Decide

D. Summer Arts in the Parks and events

- Report from Debra:
 - Arts Parks: over the summer 1792 people attended Arts Parks events, this summer there were 3 part time staff hired to work Arts Parks events, the inclement weather played a big factor in decreased attendance with the average temperature of 60 degrees at the events this summer, Arts Parks were at each Tuesday evening Waukegan Band concert at the lakefront which was well received,
 - Summer Stories: something new that was tried and not expected to do again next summer due to low participation
 - Music at Washington Park: two concerts, Latino Music with Cooke Mariachi Band and Flamenco, and Dixieland Brass Concert. Arts Parks van also went to each concert. Total attendance at the two concerts was 81. It was observed that nearby neighbors enjoyed the music from their front porches.
 - Foley suggested looking at the possibility of having Music at the Park at other park locations with Padilla-Ramos suggesting Ben Diamond park as a park with a lot of evening patrons in the summer
 - A new program to be offered in the brochure in the future is Aerial Arts from Monkey Aerial Arts in Grayslake

F. Review of community engagement discussion, strategic plan, partnerships and the state of the arts in Waukegan

- Discussion around the topic of cultural appreciation vs cultural appropriation
- ideas for continuing engagement within the community

- Develop a focus group of student users – to include music, dance, and art
 - Partnership with other Arts Groups
 - Current partnerships: Waukegan Band Foundation, ArtWise, Lake County Community Concert Assoc., Concert Call, Waukegan Arts Council, CAG, Center Stage & Citadel, Clockwise, Waukegan Historical Society, Cultural Arts Advisory Committee, Academia Cultural Xilotl, WPD Dist 60
 - Cultural Arts Advisory Committee will be adding two new members
 - any current members who know someone who might interested please pass their names on to Claudia
 - Listening to patrons, students, and advisory group
 - Act as an incubator for new ideas
 - Mobile tech engagement
 - New website and web registration will be mobile friendly
 - Newly developed brochure will be in homes in November
 - Please give feedback on what you think of the new brochure design
 - Providing our community with qualified and contemporary instructors and programs
 - Developing signage with CAG using grant funding to be placed at the Ravine and Harbor which engage and teach the community about the natural and historical aspects of the land
 - WAC update: annual arts event with the theme “Those Who Serve” has been well received so far with 3000 people viewing exhibit at Urban Edge, poignant theatrical productions at BPTC and Clockwise, WPL book display, still to come Nov 5 writer’s series from author who wrote *Band of Sister* and Nov 11 events with the parade.
- G. Updates on the state of the State and impact of the budget crisis on local agencies and organizations
- IACA and Arts Alliance of IL held their Bi-Annual conference, One State Together in the Arts, in Evanston
 - All state museums are closed and all state employees who work for the arts are concerned about the future of the arts, artifacts and jobs.
- H. Local Arts Initiatives
- Cooke Magnet School is competing for a \$5000 prize from Kris Wine to be awarded to the school with the most online votes by Oct 31. Cooke school is in 2nd place and needs everyone to vote. Each person can vote once per day. Voting is online.
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 - Cultural Arts brochure lists the full season of events
 - History flyer highlighting events and museum
 - Current exhibit of Albert Klein’s WWII photography runs through Nov 11
 - Day of the Dead celebration Nov 1 12pm-6pm at Jack Benny Center
 - Recycle Event on Nov 7 will be taking musical instruments with the exception of pianos, percussion, and guitars

- Working with A-Major Music in providing any needed repair before distributing the instruments to students
 - Looking to collaborate with a local artist to turn any non-repairable instruments into sculpture
- Ravinia Music Grant awarded to 3 Waukegan elementary schools – Glen Flora, Lyon & North - which will provide professional instrumental instruction to 4th & 5th graders for 8 hours/week
 - This program can have a long term impact on the already outstanding Waukegan High School music program

I. Summer Arts in the Parks and events

- Report from Ty:
 - Dandelion Wine kicked off summer with a great event, well attended
 - Tours and Guided walks going well
 - Historical Society's Tour of Homes had another successful year
 - Cemetery Walk was very successful with participation numbers up from previous years

J. Waukegan Park District Update

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- Bowen Park Renovation has begun with Morrison Shelter renovation work completed and items to be completed are the frog pond boardwalk, ravine signage, parking lot rain garden, and woodland garden
- Strategic Plan goal of instituting new traditions have included Day of the Dead which is now in its 5th year and Christmas in July for 2 years
 - Open to ideas and suggestions for other events that could become new traditions
 - Troha offered several suggestions: Anime/Comic programs and opportunities to display & talk about this art form, Writers Group, Craft Sharing opportunities, Theater Trip series, Story Telling opportunities, Historical Architecture class or program

IX. Next Meeting – March 31, 2016

- Next year's meetings in will be September 29, 2016 & March 30, 2017

X. Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm