

Waukegan Park District  
Jack Benny Center for the Arts  
Cultural Arts Advisory Committee Meeting  
March 31, 2016  
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 12:00pm

II. Roll Call & Introductions

In attendance were George Bridges, Park District Commissioner; Greg Petry, Executive Director; Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts; Debra Carl, Cultural Arts Specialist; Elizabeth Fallon, Department Support Aide; Harry Came, President of the Waukegan Historical Society; Roxanne Swanson, WSO & JBC Music Instructor; Jamie O'Meara, Waukegan Main Street.

Due to lack of a quorum, no official board business was conducted.

III. Review, Discuss, Decide

A. Updates on the State budget and any impact on the Cultural Arts Division

- No awards have been given as of yet for IL Arts Council grants and no process in place to apply for future grants at this time
- Arts organizations are suffering staffing cuts – Arts Alliance of IL has gone from 9 staff to 2 staff, IL Arts Council has lost key people
- Bad as the current situation is it is projected to get worse before it gets better

B. Local Arts Initiatives

- Continuing work with the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance- Christmas in July is scheduled to take place at the Puerto Rican Society facility due to some of their additional needs this year, the WPD will support this event with resources
- 3 Brother's Theater hosting sketch comedy this month
- Waukegan High School's Spring musical is performing *Legally Blonde* May 5-7
- Waukegan Arts Council meeting highlighted faith communities and schools involved in arts, promotion events to bring attention to the Arts in Waukegan
- ArtSpace – not currently represented on WAC board, less involvement in the community, non-artists renting units to fill the space, this group may require WAC to reach out to them for engagement
- Bucky Halker, PhD and singer/song writer, ran grant workshop for local artists which had no participation
- There are theater companies calling and interested in utilizing the Schornick Theatre as well as plans to utilize the theater for training or conference space

C. Discussion of CAAC meeting schedule

- Meetings will remain at 12pm & 6pm to accommodate everyone's schedule

D. Discussion of focus group questions

- What kinds of things are you seeing in arts programming in our community?

- Genesee Theatre shows, Lake County Community Concert series, Waukegan Band Foundation, Lake Front Festival, Waukegan Symphony Orchestra & Concert Chorus, Galleries (Urban Edge, Dandelion Wine), Waukegan Chamber Music Society, Waukegan Public Library summer concert series, Arts in the Parks, organic theater, Ray Bradbury Society's Carnegie Library project, lack of programming at ArtSpace
  - What do you like most about the Cultural Arts Department programs at the Waukegan Park District?
    - WSOCC, DIY Messiah, DWFAF, private music instruction, Cemetery Walk, Waukegan History Museum and Library, Day of the Dead, Music at Washington Park, ArtsPark at the lake front band concerts, Ty's school engagement programs, multicultural programming in the arts
  - Tell us about where and when you participate in arts programming?
    - Art Institute of Chicago, Spot Light children's musical theater, Ravinia, Lake Forest Symphony Orchestra, CLC Lumber Center, Lincolnshire Marriott, Kenosha Symphony Orchestra, Genesee Theater, other regional theater, for those outside of Waukegan traveling east of Green Bay Rd is taking on a less negative perception
  - When do you use Park District arts programming?
    - Private music lessons, BPTC production The Guys/Mercy Seat, Summer HEAT/Parks 'n Play, WSO, DWFAF, Day of the Dead, History programs
  - If you could add something to Cultural Arts programming at JBC, what would it be?
    - Living history programming into the schools, summer Mariachi music program, current arts offering is very comprehensive
  - If you could add something to Waukegan Park District programming, what would it be?
    - More sponsorship/scholarship money for youth participation in sports and swimming lessons for all Waukegan youth
- E. Waukegan Park District updates
- The newly designed website is online
  - The new registration software came online in Fall 2015
  - Recap of upcoming Cultural Arts events for Spring and Summer
- F. Next Meeting – September 29, 2016
- Next year's meetings in will be September 29, 2016 & March 30, 2017
- G. Meeting adjourned at 1:19pm
- No board action was taken at the meeting.

Waukegan Park District  
Jack Benny Center for the Arts  
Cultural Arts Advisory Committee Meeting  
March 31, 2016  
6:00pm meeting  
Lilac Cottage  
1911 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60087

IV. Call to Order

Commissioner Foley called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

V. Roll Call & Introductions

In attendance were Pat Foley, Park District Commissioner/President; Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Cultural Arts; Debra Carl, Cultural Arts Specialist; Elizabeth Fallon, Department Support Aide; David Motley, City of Waukegan PR; Jo Dooley, A Major Music; Lisa May, Alderman; Martha Padilla-Ramos, WPS Teacher.

Due to lack of a quorum, no official board business was conducted.

VI. Review, Discuss, Decide

H. Updates on the State budget and any impact on the Cultural Arts Division

- No awards have been given as of yet for IL Arts Council grants and no process in place to apply for future grants at this time
- Arts organizations are suffering staffing cuts – Arts Alliance of IL has gone from 9 staff to 2 staff, IL Arts Council has lost key people
- Support of our Congressmen for the Arts in IL with Bob Dold signing onto the Arts Caucus

I. Local Arts Initiatives

- Continuing work with the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance- Christmas in July is scheduled to take place at the Puerto Rican Society facility due to some of their additional needs this year, the WPD will support this event with resources
- 3 Brother's Theater hosting sketch comedy this month
- Waukegan High School's Spring musical is performing *Legally Blonde* May 5-7
- Waukegan Arts Council annual meeting highlighted the year of arts in Waukegan
- ArtSpace
- There are theater companies calling and interested in utilizing the Schornick Theatre as well as plans to utilize the theater for training or conference space
- Another Mural project planned for downtown Waukegan
- Cuban Art experience during ArtWauk
- Lee England – Love Notes at the Genesee
- Ravinia music program in elementary schools

- City of Waukegan tries to maintain a comprehensive calendar of events as well as utilizing digital bulletin board at Urban Edge and agreement with Hotels to post digital promotions on room TV
  - Jo Dooley shared National Endowment for the Arts study
- J. Discussion of CAAC meeting schedule
- Meetings will remain at 12pm & 6pm to accommodate everyone's schedule
- K. Discussion of focus group questions
- What kinds of things are you seeing in arts programming in our community?
    - More emphasis on visual arts coming from schools, Urban Edge student art show, Genesee Theatre shows
  - What do you like most about the Cultural Arts Department programs at the Waukegan Park District?
    - Great variety and diversity of programming, visual arts programming, impressed with the WPD to have an entire department for the arts
  - Tell us about where and when you participate in arts programming?
    - Theater in Chicago and Milwaukee, CLC Lumber Center, Lake County Community Concert series, small local theater
  - When do you use Park District arts programming?
    - Use to go to the youth theater productions and holiday show for young people, BPTC productions, share private music lesson information with classroom students
  - If you could add something to Cultural Arts programming at JBC, what would it be?
    - Something similar to Midwest Young Artist – a place for local students to play together, Children's Chorus, new program offered for summer will be School of Rock program
  - If you could add something to Waukegan Park District programming, what would it be?
    - current park district programs are great with a variety of things offered
- L. Waukegan Park District updates
- The newly designed website is online
  - The new registration software came online in Fall 2015
  - Recap of upcoming Cultural Arts events for Spring and Summer
- M. Next Meeting – September 29, 2016
- Next year's meetings in will be September 29, 2016 & March 30, 2017
- N. Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm
- No board action was taken at the meeting.