



Culture & Tourism Advisory Committee Meeting
Department of Economic & Community Development
450 Columbus Blvd., 2nd Floor South Room E
Monday, September 17, 2018
1:00 pm

Present: Arthur Diedrick, Mary Ellen Kingsland-Eckels, Bill Hosley, Fritz Jellinghaus, Lee Kuckro, Jason Mancini, Jane Montanaro, Debra Mathiasen, Larry McHugh, Chair Michael Price, Will Wilkins and Ted Yudain

Absent: Charles Bunnell, Carolyn Cicchetti, Anne Elvgren, Brian Jones and Walt Woodward

Phone: Renny Loisel

Staff: Christine Castonguay, Deputy Commissioner David Kooris, Randy Fiveash, Jennifer Haag, Adriane Jefferson, Cathy Labadia, Alyssa Lozupone, Liz Shapiro and Commissioner Catherine Smith

I. Call to Order

Chair Michael Price called the meeting to order at 1:01p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – Michael Price

On a motion by Ted Yudain and seconded by Mary Ellen Eckels, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism approved the November 20, 2017 Advisory Committee minutes. (Y-8, N-0)

III. Chairman’s Report – Michael Price

Chair Michael Price introduced the Committee’s newest member Deb Mathiasen. Deb was appointed by Representative Klarides in May of 2018. Deb gave a short bio of herself. Also introduced was Liz Shapiro as the new interim Arts & Culture Director replacing Kristina Newman-Scott.

IV. SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) Report – Cathy Labadia & Alyssa Lozupone

- The SHPO is working on its 2018-2023 strategic plan themed “Shared Stewardship”
- With each statewide plan the SHPO aims to expand the resources available for Historic Preservation and address preservation challenges faced by communities.
- SHPO aims to bolster preservationists in the state through actions that encourage existing partnerships and recognize new participants, including people who may not define themselves as “preservations” in the traditional sense.

Will Wilkins arrived at 1:19p.m.

- SHPO has four (4) Goals and Objectives
 - *The More the Merrier: Enrich and Expand Partnerships*
 - *Educate, Evaluate, Repeat: Enhance Education Efforts*
 - *Your Places, Your Stories: Diversify Audience and Resources*
 - *Be Ready, Be Resilient: Develop a Resiliency Strategy for Historic Resources*

A brief question and answer followed.

V. Museum Report – Liz Shapiro

- Liz presented a slide on the 4 State’s Museums.
- Prudence Crandall Museum has a 1.2 million dollar restoration starting in 2019
- New Curator, Joan DiMartino
- Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine had over 7,000 visitors in its first five weeks of opening
- Emergency stabilization of Viets Tavern west foundation wall
- Henry Whitfield State Museum will have restoration/renovations to begin in 2020
- Eric Sloan Museum will start restoration/renovation starting early 2019
- Entire contents of museum was removed already
- Demolition and rebuild of Noah Blake cabin by Friends group

Jason Mancini arrived at 1:22p.m.

Liz presented the Good to Great Grant program.

- This program provides funding for Capital Projects to not-for-profit arts, culture and historic organizations that link art, history and tourism in ways that enhance the visitors’ experience of a cultural venue and/or historic site.
- The grant is open to organizations with a \$500,000.00 operating budget or less.

- DECD seeks applications which look beyond basic facilities repair, rehabilitation or expansion towards new means of telling the stories of our state's rich history and culture in engaging, meaningful, and relevant ways.
- Grantees have two (2) years from the contract date to complete the funded project
- Grant requests range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 with a 25% match
- The program ran last year for the first time and Committee members requested a report out on how things went with the grantees. A few members of the Committee led by Bill Hosley will review the new applications.

A Brief question and answer followed.

VI. Office of the Arts Report – Adriane Jefferson

Adriane presented a PowerPoint on Arts Workforce Initiative.

- It is a program designed to provide internship opportunities for Connecticut College students, emerging professionals and military veterans at CT not-for-profit arts and culture organizations
- Students are placed in host organizations whom apply through a competitive process
- Students are required to complete 25 hours per week for 10 weeks
- Interns are paid \$15 per hour
- Last year the program successfully placed 12 individuals
- This year that number increased to 29

Question and answer session followed.

Unfortunately the meeting time ran out before Adriane finished her presentation or Tourism was able to give its' Marketing Update. It was decided the next meeting would be a continuation of this meeting to cover all that was missed along with any new agenda items.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and so moved. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 26, 2018 at 1:00pm.