Mansfield Arts Advisory Committee Minutes for April 5, 2016

1. Meeting called to order at 5:06 pm.
2. Present: Tom Bruhn, Judy McChesney, Ann Williams, David Vaughan. Absent: Prescott Powers, Kim Bova.
   Visitors: John Cusano; Nancy Bunnell, Blanch Serbin, Maureen ?.
3. Minutes of the March 1 meeting were approved.
4. Public Comments: None.
5. Correspondence: See below regarding application to exhibit.
6. Old business
   a) Discussion led by John Cusano from CT. Commission for Tourism and the Arts regarding the establishment of a new Mansfield Community Arts Center; contributions from visiting artists as well.
   -lack of a centralized arts organization ended in January, 2016 by withdrawal of the University of Connecticut participation. Cusano asked if the town administration was aware of CAC demise. The Mansfield community itself never came forward to support CAC when it was falling apart.
   -John Cusano's suggestions on moving forward a plan for the revival of the CAC: 1. Need to determine how the Mansfield community feels about a community arts center; 2. Need "baseline questions" to the community that map needs of community and its support for such a project; and 3. Need community involvement, interest, and support to the Town Council to move project forward.
   -Need a "cultural needs assessment" which can be aided by the "Regional Initiative Grant Program" of the Commission on Tourism and Culture. Application on Tourism site and next grant cycle is for September to year-end. Match from town can be in-kind. Grant is about "equitable access" to the arts.
   -There is a Peer Advisory Network that is part of Tourism and Culture that for a modest fee of $100/8 hours will assist in this process.

   b) Report on the use of the Nash-Zimmer Room at the Storrs Transportation Center (Tom Bruhn): The Nash-Zimmer Room will be run on an ad hoc event basis by the Downtown Partnership. Any one organization or individual can book the space and use it for an event. There will be, however, certain limitations and issues that have to be addressed before space is used. In no particular order they are as follows:

   1) Hours that it is now available are 8am – 5pm, Monday-Friday. This time frame will be expanded to include evening hours and perhaps Saturdays in the near future. It is a staffing issue.

   2) Set up of the room, meaning chairs and tables, will be done by the Storrs Transportation Center staff. They will also be responsible for

maintenance of the space and its cleanliness. They will provide a light clean-up after an event, but if a group brings in disposable or removable goods or food, the event group is responsible for its removing.

3) Any paraphernalia necessary for an event—electronics, computers, additional lighting, sound systems, video or still projection systems, etc., etc.—is the responsibility of the event organizer to bring in and to remove.

4) There will be a “rental agreement” that all parities must sign. There is also the likelihood that there will be a rental fee structure, particularly after 5pm or on Saturday. The fee would not apply to events organized by a town office, a town agency, or a town committee. Town residents may also get preferential treatment regarding fees. However, an organization like the Windham Arts Center as organizer would have to pay the fee.

5) The Downtown Partnership organization reserves the right to vet any and all requests to use the space. Events deemed inappropriate will be refused.

6) Art works presented in the space will not have a dedicated security officer. However, a new door between the desk area in the front lobby and the Nash-Zimmer room will remain open when the room is open. There will be no curtains on the exterior windows of the Nash-Zimmer room.

7) Alcohol usage in the room will have to abide by Town of Mansfield regulations. Also, the serving of alcohol will have to be done by a State of Connecticut liquor licensed vendor. An event group will not be allowed to bring in its own beer, wine, or alcohol. An organization like UConn Catering will have to be hired.

c. “Invitation to Exhibit” letter to arts groups was sent out (Judy McChesney).

7. New Business

-Application to display from Horsman-Potter and Potter deferred until next meeting.

8. Next Meeting: May 3, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Meet adjourned 6:45pm