

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 16, 2008

1:30 P.M.

One Constitution Plaza

Hartford, Connecticut

MINUTES

- Present:** Chairman Michael Price, Karen Arnold, Charles Bunnell, Carolyn Cicchetti, Arthur Diedrick, Anne Elvgren, Walter Fiederowicz, Betty Hale, Helen Higgins, Fritz Jellinghaus, Greg Johnson, Larry McHugh, Guy Ortoleva, Paul Pozzi, Rita Schmidt, Ann E. Sheffer, Bruce Stave, and Ted Yudain
- Absent:** Nicholas Bellantoni, Jack Condlin, Sarah Evoy, Bruce Fraser, Daniel Heffernan, John Hollander, Harvey Hubbell V., Herbert Jay, Ed Marcus, Ed McKeon, Clem Roy, Will K. Wilkins, and Walter Woodward (sabbatical)
- Staff & Guests:** Barbara Cieplak, Mary Donohue, Mary Dunne, Wayne Gannaway, Leigh Johnson (Recording), Paul Larocque (Guest), George Norfleet, Kim Pita (Guest), Mark Sanders (Guest), Karen Senich and An-Ming Truxes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the full Commission was held on Monday, June 16, 2008 at the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and was called to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Larry McHugh, second by Ted Yudain, the minutes of June 16, 2008 were approved as circulated. (Y-15, N-0)

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Michael Price Reporting

Draft 2009 Commission Meeting Dates

With existing grant and new grant program deadlines, it is necessary for the agency to review all grant deadlines and processing timelines in order to schedule Full Commission and Executive Committee meetings to better serve the needs of the grant programs. Draft meeting dates for the committees will be available at the next full Commission meeting.

The next scheduled meeting for the Full Commission is August 25, 2008 – this meeting has been canceled. The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Full Commission is November 10, 2008.

Volunteers needed for Committees

As a reminder, Commissioner's who are interested in serving on the arts, tourism, historic preservation, or film sub-committees should notify Leigh Johnson if you would like to serve.

Connecticut's Open House Day

Reports on the Open House held Saturday June 14, 2008 are very good. The Governor noted yesterday she was surprised by the large number of visitors to the mansion during the Open House. The Governor's Office has requested CCT re-double their efforts promoting instate tourism this year, and the agency is advancing the promotion efforts on behalf of the administration.

Business Audio/Video/Net Conferencing

In a letter from Governor Rell dated April 29, 2008, the Governor directed all state agencies to review their usage of state vehicles with the goal of reducing fuel consumption. With this directive, and with the help of the Department of Information Services, CCT is previewing a couple of companies that provides business audio/video/net conferencing services. This may be an alternative tool in which sub-committees can meet on a regular basis without traveling to Hartford.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Karen Senich Reporting

Budget

The Governor has order all state agencies not to spend any money until the next fiscal year. State vehicle usage is being reviewed, and commissioners are no longer able to submit monthly mileage reimbursements for travel.

A hiring freeze has been implemented in addition to budget reductions. The agency is approved to hire the division directors for tourism and historic preservation, and for the senior program associate for film. Interviews are scheduled for this Friday for the historic preservation vacancy. Resumes and applications for the tourism division director's position were received last week; no interviews have been scheduled thus far. Any vacancies that exist will remain vacant until further notice.

The agency's budget will be cut by 3-5 percent across the board. This will include BCR and potentially include the statewide marketing fund.

P-card purchases are being scrutinized and the agency will be scaling back on all purchases including lunch for meetings. The Commission is reviewing two approved business audio vendors as an alternate means for meetings.

Legislative Session

During the last legislative session, a Sports Advisory Board was created which includes 25 entities including a few state agencies. The advisory board is charged with making recommendations as to how CCT should market to sporting events, and to market sporting events in the state. A letter will be sent to the 25 organizations to attend a meeting in late August. This is required by statute to be completed by November 15, 2008 and a report to the legislature by December 1, 2008.

There is no funding associated with this new advisory board, and it is anticipated that funding for marketing to sporting events and marketing of sporting events within the state be a recommendation.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. ***On a motion by Carolyn Cicchetti, second by Rita Schmidt, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved artist Ilan Averbuch for an Art in Public Spaces project for H.H. Ellis Technical School in Danbury, in the amount of \$350,00.*** (Y-15, N-0)
- B. ***On a motion by Larry McHugh, second by Guy Ortoleva, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved artist Jun Kaneko for an Art in Public Spaces project for Eli Whitney Technical School in Hamden in the amount of \$444,250.*** (Y-15, N-0)
- C. ***On a motion by Carolyn Cicchetti, second by Arthur Diedrick, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism approved 151 grants totaling \$3,950,000 for the FY09 Organizational Support Program grants.*** (Y-14, N-0, Recusing Commissioners: Yudain for Curtain Call; McHugh for Goodspeed Opera; Hale for Opera New England; Johnson for Greater Arts Workshop; and Sheffer for Westport Country Playhouse)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Overview

The agency is charged by statute to create a strategic plan for FY 2009 – 2011. An RFP process was conducted for the best qualified vendor to assist with the overall completion of the plan for the agency. AMS Planning & Research Company was selected as the vendor. AMS Corporation gave a brief overview of their work plan and the different phases for the project, and the projected study timetable to committee members. Handouts are incorporated into the minutes.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN – a motion to adjourn was made, and so moved. All in favor.

VIII. NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING – Monday, November 10, 2008, 1:30 p.m., One Constitution Plaza, main conference room.

Future Actions

- None at this time.

Tabled Items

- None at this time.

Respectfully submitted by:
Leigh Johnson