

Cromwell Arts Alliance  
Cromwell, CT 06416

**Date: Monday, September 8, 2014**  
**Time: 6:30 p.m.**  
**Place: CHS Media Center**

### MINUTES AND MOTIONS

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call. Chairman Rich Donohue called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda. Christine Trousdale made a motion, seconded by Marje Lemmon to approve the agenda, which was then unanimously approved.
- III. Public Comments (*2-3 minutes per speaker general information on agenda items*) – Cindy Loyear thanked Rich Donohue for stepping forward to be Chair. The Alliance members in attendance briefly introduced themselves, including the new Chair, who shared his story, including his thoughts about this new role was, in part, an extension of his role leading the Cromwell Historical Society given the importance of promoting culture in Cromwell. He shared a quote of President John Adams about the importance of being able to study the arts and culture.
- IV. Old Business

- A. 1. Work Groups Report – Summer Camp Group

The group reported on brainstorming ways to include kids and adults to camp. There was discussion of how would this be set up - separate, park and rec, an artist studio. The group discussed ideas that could be inter generational. There was a suggestion for a Cromwell Arts Festival – examples of successful arts festivals include the Amherst Early Music Festival. There was also discussion about the Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan and opportunities at the upcoming farmers markets. The Alliance discussed possible funding opportunities and the importance of starting small and manageable. It was also agreed that it was important to make sure that artists understand the goals and purpose of the Alliance.

2. Work Groups Report – Intergenerational Group

The Group reviewed its mission statement and reported on a number of initiatives and projects, including the TaTT program at Covenant Village with Cromwell High students. Special thanks to Sodexo for their support and funding of the TaTT program. The Group also reported on other projects and possible projects including dinner and a movie, community book drive, repurposing materials (Crazy Quilt and Mad Hatter Tea Party and ways to involve kids by combining art and recycling). An Alliance member suggested contacting a Cromwell resident who is actively involved with a local recycling organization. The Alliance also discussed the possibility of a community poetry contest and a volunteer community marching band or chorus, potentially with a stipend for the conductor. There was also discussion about the importance of offering inter generational opportunities not only for students and more senior citizens, but also for those community members in between (in the 20-60 years of age range). It was also noted that raising awareness of the Alliance among students in the community would be very helpful. The Alliance members debated the pros and cons of collaborating with other communities. The group focused on the sense of community in Cromwell that the Alliance can have a role in developing – the Alliance's efforts can be in Cromwell and for Cromwell, but not only about Cromwell, which will likely also involve participants and attendees from outside of Cromwell. The Alliance can benefit Cromwell by bringing people into the Town while also helping develop a sense of community.

### 3. Work Groups Report – Communications Group

The Group has developed an extensive list of goals and action items, including having already set up an e-mail address for Alliance communications. There was also discussion of an upcoming documentary about children's theater being filmed and produced by a Cromwell resident, which the Alliance may be able to screen later in 2014. The Alliance members agreed that they supported the Communications Group's approach to communications as included in more detail in their recent minutes.

Chairman Donohue suggested a new workgroup Event work group focused on brainstorming, developing and assisting with the planning of events. He asked for any volunteers to contact him.

### 4. Work Groups Report – Logistical Group

Logistical group - Paula Talty will recirculate the minutes of this Group's most recent meeting. Jeremy Osterling will coordinate a Dropbox folder for the Alliance members. The Logistical Group is looking for additional members. The Group reviewed its minutes, including its mission and approach of identifying and inventory venues for the arts in Cromwell. They discussed various possible locations and the creation of a venue database. It was noted that ITowns provides good information and a template for information that is important to include in such a database. The Cromwell Division of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Cromwell Economic Development Commission and the Cromwell Downtown Merchants Association were all mentioned as possible resources to assist with this fact gathering and these efforts. The Group discussed the importance of collaborating with the Communications Group. The Logistics Group is next scheduled to meet at 4 p.m. on September 17, 2014.

#### B. Defining Arts – the Alliance will keep discussing this topic and refining its approach.

A suggestion was made that each Alliance member should create their own tent name tag for future meetings, giving members an opportunity to develop a creative name tag which will help members get to know each other. An offer was made that the artist with the most "creative" name tag would not have to take meeting minutes for the next year.

### V. New Business

- A. Approval of Minutes and Motions – June 25, 2014 meeting. Rosemary Matus made a motion, seconded by Jeremy Osterling to approve the minutes and motions which was then unanimously approved.
- B. List of local artists – the Alliance, through its Communications Work Group, will work to compile this information.

### VI. Public Comments (*Agenda items only – 2-3 minutes per speaker*) - None

VII. Topics for Future Agendas – no additional agenda items. The next meeting of the Cromwell Arts Alliance will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2014 at the Cromwell Historical Society, 395 Main Street, Cromwell, CT. Paula Talty will create an attendance sheet form for future Cromwell Arts Alliance meetings.

VIII. Adjournment – Mike Camilleri made a motion, seconded by Christine Trousdale to adjourn the meeting, which was then unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Camilleri, Acting Secretary