

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Arts Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
5:00pm

MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
DRAFT Minutes

1. Call To Order 5:03pm

	Present	Absent
Kim Bova	X	
David Vaughan	X	
Prescott Powers		X
Judy McChesney	X	
Ann Williams	X	
Susan Meisler		X
Kimberly Blair Rontey, MCC Liaison	X	

Visitors – Kathryn Eidson, Nancy Bunnell

2. Approval of minutes: 02/05/2019 Approved unanimously

3. Public Comments

Presentation – Update on Eagleville Schoolhouse Project

Comments, Notes and Discussion Points by Kim Rontey from Presentation

“Thank you to all those who attended the meeting last night. It was great to be able to share all of the progress that has been made toward the opening of Lenard Hall; the future home of the CSA program, and to hear your valuable feedback.

(There is a mention of a PowerPoint not included in these minutes.

(DHVaughan's notes on PowerPoint continue.

John and Jean Lenard attended to show support of their project.
Original building has field stone foundation from the early 1900s.
Granite foundation indicates a subsequent expansion.

History

- UCONN ceased CSA
- MP&R implemented smaller scale CSA program
- Lenards approached town
- AAC supported effort
- Town council approved donation agreement
- Open Space Conversion
- Open House for neighbors – January 2018
- Site Plans approved
- Groundbreaking – November 2018

Design of Facility

PZC Process

Target building completion June 30, 2019

Target full operation Sept. 3, 2019

- Music instruction
- Dance
- Theater
- Limited visual arts
- Instructors
- 3 visual arts
 - 15 music
 - 2 + dance))

Kim Rontey's remarks continues.

We're almost to the finish line – it's time to be excited!

Below are additional notes from the discussion that occurred at the meeting. Should any of you have more comments, questions, or points for consideration, please reach out to Curt or me at any time.

Kim Rontey – ronteykb@mansfieldct.org 860-429-3015 ext. 6108

Curt Vincente – vincenteca@mansfieldct.org 860-429-3015 ext. 6109

As Mr. Lenard stated – this is only the beginning. A place for us to start to regrow (how fitting with the Town's new tagline!). There are many of you who remember the “old CSA” at its height under the University, and while we are not there yet, this project is a *huge* stride in the right direction. We must remember that the program at UConn had been established for about 30 years when it was at its peak. We are fortunate to have so many individuals committed to this program,

and to promoting the arts in this community. The vision exists, and we are glad to have you all as a part of it.

And finally, enough thanks cannot be given to the Lenard's for their amazing generosity, and patience with this process. Without them, this project would not have been possible, and there truly are no words to express the impact they are making on this program and this community.

Lenard Hall – Community School of the Arts Update: 3/5/2019

Meeting Notes

- New space will focus on music/performing vs. visual arts –
 - The space in its current design will focus on providing space primarily for music instruction, and also provide a base for the active dance programs and some theater.
 - Consolidates music lessons to one location –
 - removes excessive rental fees for use of E.O. Smith and rental fees from von der Mehden for recitals
 - eliminates constant lesson space changes required from conflicts at the school
 - allows for more appropriate space for dance/theater programs, currently using various rooms at the Community Center and Senior Center.
 - There is no permanent stage – moveable risers/staging will be purchased through Ossen Grant. Major theater productions (Nutcracker) will still require use of the school for shows.
 - Visual arts instruction in the space will be limited. Concern expressed over this.
 - Visual art programs will still occur, but will remain at the Community Center at this time. As able, visual art programs will utilize the new space, but there is still much to determine before this can occur.
 - Protecting floors
 - Need for appropriate sinks
 - Discussion of dividers in Recital hall – how can this help facilitate the visual arts?
 - Need for permanence of art supplies
 - Storage concerns
 - There will be wall space for artwork displays.
 - We will look for ways to incorporate the visual arts into programs that more regularly utilize the space at Lenard Hall
 - Ex. – art programs create sets, costume pieces, décor, for theater productions, recitals, etc.
- Growth of the program –
 - Currently there are approximately 75 private lesson students per season, and not all instruments are covered.
 - How will the new space accommodate growth with only 7 program/lesson/recital rooms?
 - Currently there are no days where 7 instructors are teaching at the same time. Having the space to allow for additional instructors will allow for exponential growth in the program.

- Ex. In theory if 6 lesson rooms, hosting students from 2pm-9pm each day for 30 minute lessons (though this will vary) allows for 84 lessons per day (14 lesson slots x 6 rooms), plus use of the recital hall. Multiply this by 5 weeknights, the program could accommodate over 400 private music lesson students each week.
- Who will administer the program?
 - The goal is to see enough program growth that an additional Recreation Coordinator, with a background in the arts, can be hired full time with sole focus on art programming.
- What is the current vetting process for instructors?
 - Instructors are referred from the School of Fine Arts at UConn, and by current instructors of the CSA.
 - Application and interview process – at this time this does not include any type of audition/trial lesson.
 - More permanence in instructors desired – utilizing skilled instructors dedicated to *this* community, living locally, rather than a frequent transition using college students.
- Marketing – we will look toward creating a separate CSA brochure in addition to incorporating program listings in the current MPRD seasonal brochures.
 - Desire expressed for regional reach – we do have this!
- Utilization of grants, scholarships, etc. to aid in program growth
- Future building expansion is unlikely due to the size of the lot.
- Additional programs for consideration –
 - Revamp of Suzuki programs (strings and add piano)
 - Children’s choirs?
 - Afterschool program/options for bussing to lessons from school
 - Collaborations with UConn (Ballard, Benton, utilization of bus system)
 - More family programming
 - Daytime preschool programs, lessons for adults”

4. Correspondence – None

5. Old Business

a. Juried Art Show

Target date for next show Target for show is spring 2010. Submissions by January

b. Sustainable CT Collaborations/Criteria

Task for DHV Find criteria on line for convenient referral

c. Follow up on Downtown Pop-Up galleries

Kim Bova circulated a response from Patterson ” Currently, there are only two available spaces, both in 40 Wilbur Cross Way (former Toasted and Amazon spaces). I can reach out to the property manager to see if they would be interested in allowing a pop-up installment. Can you provide some more details about what you are envisioning? She is away until next week, so if you could let me know by Monday, that would be

great.

FYI: The former Sweet Emotions space looks available, but the landlord of that building is in final discussions for a lease for that space. So, I know he would not be interested at this point.”

6. New Business

- a. Current exhibits and schedule
 - i. Paul Tanner
 - ii. Katherine Tolsdorf
- b. Pending artwork and/or display applications
 - i. Art & Garden Tour – organized by Nancy Cooke-Bunnell
After review of the art works to be display the committee decided to approve it for display starting April 1.
- c. Other

7. Next meeting to be held **April 2, 2019 at 5:00pm.**

8. Items for Future Agenda Include pertinent text from Sustainable Connecticut Criteria for committee review.

Adjourned at 6:38pm.

<u>Exhibit Period</u>	Entry cases		Hallway	Sitting room	
	Double-sided	Shelves	Long (5) Short (2)	Lower (3)	Upper (5)
12/1/18-1/31/19	JURIED ART SHOW				
2/1/19 - 3/31/19			Tanner	Tanner	Tanner
4/1/19 – 5/31/19	Art & Garden Tour (PENDING)	Art & Garden Tour (PENDING)	Tolsdorf	Tolsdorf	Tolsdorf
6/1/19-mid August					
9/1/19 – 11/30/19					
12/1/19 – 1/31/20					