

Trumbull Nature Commission Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
7:30 pm

Present: Chairman Emily Shufrin, Commissioners Jack Boynton, Karen Laracca and Olia Yelner (entered at 7:40 pm)

Also Present: Sheryl Baumann and Kevin Malone from TNAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Mrs. Shufrin followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

A quorum of Commissioners was not present at this time. Minutes will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for approval.

TNAC Q&A

Mrs. Baumann shared her report with the Commissioners and it is attached to the minutes. She noted the following:

1. Programs are listed in the report. Several have been completed and summer programs are beginning including 13 sessions for the Lighthouse Scholarship Program. They are already starting to plan for the fall.
2. The Trumbull Soars as One Mural will remain displayed in the Library through the summer.
3. They are participating in the Make-A-Wish Walk for Wishes program.
4. They will be participating in Trumbull Day.
5. TNAC recently became a member of the Bridgeport Youth Engagement Collaborative. They will be working with other non-profits to address the needs of teens to support positive behaviors and are working on a program that will provide Environmental STEM education. This program is through an initiative of Senator Moore who has been a great supporter. They will be working with the Bridgeport Arts and Cultural Council, Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse, the Green Village Initiative, Bridgeport Prospers and many other non-profit organizations.

Ms. Yelner entered the meeting at 7:40 pm. (Quorum)

ARPA Funding Board of Finance & Town Council Meeting

Mrs. Shufrin noted ARPA funds are allocated by the Federal government to the State and the State then provides funding and permissions to every town to spend the money on infrastructure needs. It is intrinsically tied to the experiences in the pandemic. The Nature Commission has an opportunity to advocate for the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center and their facility to make improvements such as the handicapped ramp to enter the building, repairing the flashing on the rear roof and working on the retaining wall going into the basement area. Mrs. Baumann noted the First Selectman announced there

will be a meeting with the Town Council and the Board of Finance and they should advocate for these projects at that time. The Town is aware there are outstanding projects that need to be addressed and Mr. Estrada has compiled a list for the TNAC including ADA access (ramp) insuring visitor safety and confidence, building structural improvements including complete roof replacement, access door replacement, overhead door replacement and removal of retaining wall and regrading for a total of \$75,000.

Mrs. Shufrin noted she will be in touch with the Commission once the meeting date is set and encouraged the Commissioners to attend to give support to TNAC and the projects.

Mrs. Shufrin, Ms. Baumann and Mr. Malone met with First Selectman Tesoro, Mr. Estrada and Ms. Bakalar and discussed joining the Trumbull Capital Five Year Plan as the TNAC is a town building. In order to receive State bonding funds, they have to be in the Capital Plan. They currently have State support for that right now and Ms. Baumann spoke with Mrs. Shufrin, on behalf of the Patrons, indicating they would like the Commission to write a Letter of Intent asking for inclusion in the Capital Plan and requesting information on the next steps to take. Mrs. Shufrin will write a draft letter for review. She also requested the Commissioners to be active in the process.

Action Items

1. Identify the July Town Council and Board of Finance meeting date and have representation for support of the projects at TNAC.
2. Write a Letter of Intent to the First Selectman with a copy to Mr. Estrada and determine next steps.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Yelner to approve the minutes of March 15, 2022 as written. Seconded by Ms. Laracca and unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Yelner to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Seconded by Ms. Laracca and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 110438, Trumbull, CT 06611

Street Address: 7115 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Subject: Report to Nature Commission: June 2022

TNAC Building and Grounds

- Building
 - In a Zoom meeting with Town of Trumbull officials, representatives of the Patrons of TNAC and members of the Trumbull Nature Commission, First Selectman Tesoro informed those present that in order for a TNAC building renovation or replacement to take place, the building needs to be included in the Town's 5-year capital plan.
 - ARPA Funding Request
 - o The Town of Trumbull included the following text regarding TNAC's request of ARPA funds, in its presentation to be given to the Board of Finance and Town Council:
 - "Improvements to the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center include ADA access, ensuring visitors safety and confidence. Building structural improvements including complete roof replacement, access door replacements, overhead door replacement, and removal of retaining wall and regrading. \$75,000"
 - We were informed that the presentation is not in its final form.
- Grounds
 - o The sunflower garden was planted
 - o The new butterfly garden was complete with new soil and a fence was installed
 - Annuals and perennials were planted; educational signs will be included
 - o The new TNAC street sign was installed
 - o New firepit installed by Eagle Scout

Corporate Partnerships

- Henkel
 - o Held an employee volunteer day on May 13
 - Projects included sunflower garden preparation and garage organization
- Amazon
 - o Employee volunteers participated in Community Planting Day
 - Planted flowers by both TNAC signs and in the garden in front of the ramp

Fundraising

- In Fiscal Year 2022 – 23, starting July 1st, the Patrons of TNAC are due to receive the second allocation of \$75,000 in directed local funding from the State of CT
- Youth Service Prevention Grant
 - o The Patrons of TNAC were informed that they will be receiving a one year grant in the amount of \$35,000 from the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
 - The grant is intended to fund programs that address the unmet needs of youth in Bridgeport
- TNAC was the May 2022 of Stop & Shop's Community Giving Bag program
 - o \$230 to be donated to TNAC

Education

- From January – June 2022, TNAC has provided 45 E-STEM programs to students from the following locations:
 - o Trumbull: 20
 - o Bridgeport: 19
 - o Monroe: 3
 - o Fairfield: 1
 - o Newtown Sandy Hook: 1
 - o Ridgefield: 1

Programs

- Tinkergarten 8-week program May - June
- Earth Day program and Trumbull Soars as One Mural Installation at TNAC 4-16-22
- TNAC Trail Tales with TPAUD and the Trumbull Counseling Center 4-22-22
- Trumbull Soars as One Mural Installation at Trumbull Library 4-23-22
- Trumbull Community Women's Shredding Event 4-30-22
- Fishing 101 5-14-22
- Community planting program 5-21-22
- Little Green Thumb 6-week program May - June
- Intro to Archery 6-18-22
- Great Firefly Roundup 6-25-22
- Insect hike with the Trumbull Health Department 6-27-22
- Biodiversity hike for Middlebrook playground camp 6-27-22
- Lighthouse camps in July and August
 - o TNAC to hire 3 teens as Assistant Instructors
 - The teens attend Trumbull schools

Community

- TNAC participated in the Make a Wish Walk for Wishes 5-14-22
- TNAC will participate in Trumbull Day on 7-2-22
- TNAC has been named a member of the Bridgeport Youth Engagement Collaborative
 - o TNAC will be developing a new program for teens. The goal of the program is to give youth the opportunity to learn about E-STEM jobs directly from career professionals.
 - o TNAC will be working with other members of the Collaborative to identify those teens who would most benefit from this program.
 - o TNAC intends to offer this program to both Trumbull and Bridgeport youth.

Submitted by:

Sheryl Baumann

Director

Patrons of the Trumbull Nature & Arts Center

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Trumbull Housing Authority Commissioners:
Kathy McGannon – Chairperson
Laurel Anderson – Vice Chairperson
Maureen Bova – Treasurer
Charlene Pederson – Assistant Treasurer
Sara Pflueger - Secretary

June 28, 2022

Draft Resolution of Signing Authority

WHEREAS, the Trumbull Housing Authority of Trumbull Board of Commissioners is determined to grant signing and authority to certain person(s) described hereunder.

RESOLVED, Kathleen McGannon, Board of Commissioners, Chairman, is hereby authorized and approved to authorize and empower the following individual to make, execute, endorse and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Trumbull Housing Authority, but shall be limited to written instruments, banking transactions, agreements, documents, transfers, assignments, contracts, certificates of whatever nature entered into by Trumbull Housing Authority of the Town of Trumbull on June 28, 2022.

Name: Paulette Mack

Position/Title: Interim Executive Director

Email Address: paulette@sternvillage.com

Signature: _____

The undersigned certifies that She/he is the properly elected and qualified as Keeper of the books and records of the Trumbull Housing Authority, an organization duly conformed pursuant to the laws of the State of Connecticut, and that said meeting was held in accordance with State law and with the Bylaws of the Trumbull Housing Authority of the Town of Trumbull.

This resolution has been approved by Trumbull Housing Authority Commission, June 28, 2022.

I as authorized by the Commission, hereby certify and attest that all the information above is true and correct.

_____, Chairman of the Board

_____, Date