

Cromwell Cultural District Commission (CCDC)

Minutes 4.23.24

Attendees: Katie Daigle KD, Ann Grasso AG, Rosemary Matus RM, Tony Palmieri TP, Kelley Salemi KS, Danielle Tencza DT; Council liaison: Paula Luna PL

Absent: Mayor Demetriades, Paige Nardiello

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM

General discussion to help clarify the purpose of a cultural district, and some of the history of both creative districts (initiated by National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and CT State Cultural Districts, was held prior to selection of officers. The distinction between Cromwell Creative District and Cromwell Cultural District Commission is a work in progress with the goal to work collaboratively and create clarifications after application and approval by state is received.

AG clarified that even though an ordinance was passed by Cromwell Town Council creating CCDC, there is no cultural district in Cromwell until an application has been sent to state and state has approved. Packets with baseline information required for application were handed to all.

Officers:

Chair: Kelley Salemi

Co-Vice Chairs: Rosemary Matus and Danielle Tencza

Secretary: Ann Grasso, only through the completion of application

Members offered brief introductions of themselves:

1. Katie Daigle: Cromwell Creative District CCD, Chair, CCD Publicity Chair
2. Ann Grasso: CCD Vice-Chair
3. Rosemary Matus: Cromwell Arts Alliance CAA Chair
4. Tony Palmieri: Business Owner #inthedistrict Tony's Flour Shop
5. Kelley Salemi: Governance Coordinator, Hartford Atheneum Museum Board
6. Danielle Tencza: business owner Company N Tempo (dance and music studio)
7. Paula Luna: Councilwoman and lifelong resident of Cromwell

Meetings:

- preference is for in-person meetings although all are encouraged to review emails
- quarterly:
 - July 23, 2024
 - October 22, 2024
 - January 28, 2025
 - April 22, 2025

Discussion of Commission Goals and Objectives was somewhat limited since the Commission is actually not approved by state at this point. The Town ordinance was read and the distinction between a nonprofit and a commission was clarified from both political and financial structures.

Ideas for consideration:

- Short-term: music on the green, particularly of different cultures
- Chili fest
- Long-term: Riverport Festival

Exchange of contact information:

KD: katie0123@hotmail.com, 203-535-6663

AG: ann@aegrasso.com, 860-632-7735 (preferred) 401-273-9563 for text

RM: rmatus@snet.net, 860-305-6338

TP: tony.palmieri.01@gmail.com, 860-398-2113

KS: Kelley.Salemi@gmail.com, 860-931-9277

DT: companyntempo@yahoo.com, 860-304-4198

PL: pgluna1126@gmail.com, 860-301-7363

Eric Dillner: Regional oversight for Cromwell, Exec. Director, Shoreline Alliance: eric@shorelinearts.org, active with text: 203-812-9324

Next steps: File State application and request walk through the district. AG to verify with Eric Dillner if there are any new requirements by state. KS and AG will work together on draft version for Commission to review.

Meeting adjourned: 8:03 PM