Meeting commencement:8:06pm

Board Members Present: Lindsay and Michelle Ewing, Nealie Newberger, Matthew Marks, David Klein, Guy Neumann

* Report from Shannon Mumley and Maxx re the Wizbanger / past and future
  + 2 parades so far; first one was the most successful one; Planning a 3rd one for Sat, June 27th for the weekend after father’s day but before July 4th – partner with Tangier’s and Brazil Grill this time for food. SB – mentioned getting the Parkville NRZ involved; Pre-ordering is good so we should emphasize that going forward. LE to reach out to the Parkville NRZ chair. SM created a new route – feedback from the group: LE suggests a stop at Elizabeth Park; SM is going to reach out to Parkville Market and see if there is interest; Group thinks the route looks good. Rain day the next day.
* Report from Farmers Market: Jessica Monds – second week of the market – attendance is down from last year; snap and BT benefits are a bit more; down a couple of vendors - but by the end of June should be a full market; volunteers handing out masks with no pushback thus far; She has the cones and has what she needs so they are all set.
* Report from Nealie re pantries: Seems to be working;
* Report from Nealie re Elizabeth Park tables: Ask W. McNair about the 27th and see if we can do an unveiling after the wizbanger?
* Membership report from Michelle
  + Progress on sending out USPS and/or email membership mailing - ME cricket and budget for estimates for mailings, both postcards and actual mailings. She is looking at 4 scenarios depending on costs. Can talk about it before the next meeting. DK – wants to get one out before summer vacation starts. SB – can we give options for electronic paying? ME yes we can and we have and she will add a comment about matching.
* Financial Report from David as to COVID related expenditures and what’s still available:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Amount committed** |  | **Amount Paid** | **Details** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hartford News- 2 sponsorships | $1,000 |  | $1,000 |  |  |
| Foodshare | $1,000 |  | $1,000 |  |  |
| Grace Church -Food pantry | $500 |  | $500 |  |  |
| UMC/Gift of Love -Food pantry | $500 |  | $500 |  |  |
| Church of the Living God -Food pantry | $500 |  | $500 |  |  |
| Middlesex United Way - MASK Making | $250 |  | $250 |  |  |
| Hartford News - Advert for West End swap | $75 |  |  |  |  |
| Ten Restaurants - 25 gift cards per restaurant at $10 per card | $2,500 |  | $1,250 | Tangiers, Mo's, City Pizza, Xpresso, Monte Alban | |
| Restaurant Program materials |  |  |  | ?Lindsay | |
| Social Media coordinator $150 per month for 4 months | $600 |  |  |  |  |
| Eight Walking Musicians $25 for a 30 minute performance | $200 |  | $200 | M. Martin, Grinch, marching band(2) | |
| Food pantry stocking $250 per pantry | $500 |  | $374 | Restock ($336) and Plaques ($38) | |
| WECA Night in stipends $25 | $250 |  | $25 |  |  |
| Graduating Senior surprize |  |  | $499 |  |  |
| totals | $7,875 |  | $6,098 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revised Grants Program | ? |  | $1,032 | Total WEFM | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fall Scholarship | $2,000 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| totals | $9,875 |  | $7,130 |  |  |

* Report from Matt / Public Safety –
  + MM: Spoken to Officer Sherbo – he is a union rep and they are speaking about things to defund the police; He suggested writing to administrators to get things done. For instance a beat cop that used to be here on Farmington and we as WECA could write and try to gain support for a community resource officer; We used to have 2 patrol cars, one has been reallocated to North Hartford, but we could petition for that back. MM will ask who is the best person to contact. SB asked if we have support from the group on this – NN volunteered. RT suggested in addition to a request for a CSO we make a request for other police reform as well; DK suggested that is too much to take on in one request; SB as a 501C3 we cannot be political in anyway or we could lose our status; GN we can show solidarity with taking a specific stance but w/o supporting a movement. As far as a CSO goes when we had one they had a connection here. There is a call to get PO from the city, a community approach to policing. LE thinks that WECA can mention a CSO in addition to what RT is thinking; RT is supporting the 8 can’t wait platform; they significantly reduce police killings and abuse of forth – her preference would be that we want a CSO but also we want the 8 principle from 8 can’t wait. GN asked if we can just ask the city what they currently employ as far as tactics as a civil approach to this before we make requests; SB agrees with GN that we should find out what we practice first. SB supports a stronger civilian review board to address these issues. MM will reach out to Sherbo to find out first before we send a letter. MM and NN will draft a letter and circulate to the board. Voted Unanimously.

Max Condren – ask about the civilian review board as part of the letter.

* + Traffic calming near NW school – Sherbo said it is something we can pursue as an organization.
  + BlockWatch program – it kind of worked, people going on evening walks but no one wanted to do the 12-4am shifts so its difficult. And people leaving valuables outside.
  + Protests in Hartford have been peaceful. They have an increased presence between 12-6 am to deter looting; no talk of a curfew.
  + Looking at a loss of revenue from the state since COVID and trying to find funding, but he is working with Bronin on a path forward.
* Report from Erin / Education, if any –
  + Any communication recommended to membership for summer? ES the budget process for next year is being voted on – it has been published and she can share the link posted on the Hartford public schools website that is ~2.5 M$ reduction. What we can do over the summer – we had spoken about a book/toy swap – she thinks that would be worthwhile to pursue. She thinks there may be shared homeschool and at school learning for the Fall. Joe Condren – parks and rec summer programming does not have a solid plan at this point, but they are looking at solutions for camps. SB – can we share resources it will be helpful.
  + RT update on the lottery, there was a change that wasn’t made clear ahead of time and they have switched it from race based to economic status and in the first wave of that they hurt the WEND and the South End and other neighborhoods. There was a group of parents advocating with Matt Ritter that the algorithm was flawed and what the state offered to do was add seats in the meantime. And then in the future aim to change the algorithm and add 5 seats and 2 pairs in the meantime. SB suggested that RT write a letter to the board of education in preparation for the next year. MM said Marion from Hartford Next might be interested in getting involved in and address. SB – education is huge so it’s a very important issue facing the city. RT Matt Ritter has been extremely helpful speaking with the major and the superintendent to ensure that Hartford kids are prioritized in the Hartford lottery; GN – has spoken to MR and there is a way to fix the algorithm and that it may take more than one year to fix but it can be fixed. RT suggest that MR could speak about the lottery and talk about education; ES suggested we have principles come and speak to it again in the future. SB do we invite anyone to the meeting on June 23rd to speak on hot topics? RT – was thinking about education, anti-racism- so long term it may might sense to invite someone to do a history lecture – Jeffery Ogbar. Voted – unanaimously. RT will reach out.
* Presentation by Max on possible Racism workshop series
  + Does WECA want to contribute / participate?
  + {Need to be very careful not to jeopardize 501c3 status.}
* Whether and/or how to communicate with membership re BLM movement
* Whether and/or how to seek more diversity in Board and in membership

MC – ants to address a bigger issues, one that is an issue in the WEND – how can we all be part of a solution? He’s been speaking to people in the neighborhood and outside of the neighborhood - he is thinking about 2 different types of workshops; one that is oriented toward white people and privilege in our neighborhood to introduce changes in language and learned behaviors; Not marketed toward people of color because they have been living with this their whole lives; the second type of workshop is more connecting Hartford to what is going on – there are organizers already working to align with our neighborhood so our neighborhood can find out more about what is going on. MM what is the buy in from POC? We want is to be meaningful and impactful; MC – think we just do it and see what happens, we don’t hide from it - we want to do better. He would get a pulse from a facilitator and find out who will be the most effective at the workshop. He proposes we just be vulnerable and there is going to be critiques no matter what. RT – it is important to map out an plan to map it out for at least a year so that it is a commitment that we know how long the trainings are. NN – good idea - we need a clear set path. SB – agree, we got an email today with concern that we are supporting BLM. GN – we can support ideals, equality, but not necessarily organizations. We need to be careful and allow people to talk. NN – best intentions sometimes go the wrong way we need to be careful: SB – are we bringing local people in or not local? MC – looking at options based on cost options. There is a Diversity Director – Joann Edwards - here in the WEND. MC – why don’t we invite a facilitator to host a workshop, present to the community and figure out where we go from here. ES – Tony DeJesus and Madelline solicits biased training at St Joseph’s and he could be a resource; can this provide for pro bono resources for our community or a resource center for people to utilize – this might bring more people in more inclusively? SB – MC can you get an estimate on a series running from Sept to June to present? GN – WECA has the budget to come up for a system and then vote on a budget. RT – what is it going to look like – them presenting, an abbreviated workshop or them talking to the board about what they are going to do; SB it is a way for us to become familiar with the content presented; MC wants to see people talking about racism in the WEND and understand that how we talk about life is potentially violent toward POC. He wants WECA to be a place where people feel it is worthwhile to take part of meetings and conversations where their needs are being heard. He is not calling anyone out individually. SB – are we doing a meeting for the board? MC – he would like the workshops to happen – do they need to happen under WECA, no. I think people will participate. He would love sponsorship from WECA and to be the organizer if you choose to do so. LE – lets get some of these people together to discuss further to get a taste of what we might be promoting. GN – we can support we just need more information. We can support the prelim screening, you set it and then we will be available. NN – let them know it may be a series and have them present. ES – can we connect people looking for donations? DK – we will probably have very little support.

* General discussion re organizational goals for 2020 – 2021 – tabled.

DK – Wilfredo is taking over the plaza at Brazza!

Meeting Ended: 10:05pm