

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission minutes
5/20/15

Present: Sue Howard, Mike Fabian, Adam Welch, Frank Rivera, Ann Marie Miller, Jonathan Shahn

Absent: Kim Bosnoski, Barb Harrington, Denny Hansen, Kat Liao, Kerrie Peterson, Catherine Rodrigue

The group met in Memorial Park at 6:30 pm to tour the Borough and dream about placement of public art. The April minutes were approved (Adam Welch motion, Ann Marie Miller, second) and the legal notice was provided in the agenda.

The potential sites for public art placement include:

1. The center of Peddie Lake – a post is prominent and likely holds capacity for electrical connection. The thought of floating rafts holding artwork/sculpture was discussed.
2. Concrete pads that currently exist in Memorial Park alongside benches. Trash can placement seems arbitrary and in some cases portable allowing for space on either side of park benches.
3. Placement on top of concrete/stone trash cans that could act as bases for sculpture.
4. On either side of new bridge over Peddie Lake that will be constructed.
5. On opposite side of bridge near Hightstown Public Library (see #4).
6. In Association Park on either corner facing Stockton Street (south). Also potential for child friendly sculpture near play area or placement of several sculptures on west quadrant.

Photos of potential sites in Memorial Park:



Adam noted that his friend, Alaskan native and renowned totem pole carver, Nathan Jackson, would be in town and he would promote his appearances/lectures at Peddie School and at Rogers School as a program of the Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission.

Ann Marie noted that she met with Carlos Fernandez and Connor Montferrat who were planning the Latino Festival in Memorial Park on July 11. The planning committee is seeking an audience that is not solely Latino and they asked the Arts Commission to help promote the festival to the general public.

Ann Marie also noted that she met with Tricia Eagan and Gary Stevens (?) who were planning the Harvest Fair in October and that they welcomed the involvement of the Arts Commission in providing a more visible presence for the arts at the fair. They mentioned prior attempts to create an “artists alley” near the bank and would be happy to see that developed. Diana Lang hosts a photography contest and also welcomed the involvement of the Arts Commission. Ann Marie said she would reach out to Barb Harrington who mentioned interest in working on an arts presence at the fair. Sue Howard also volunteered to help.

Adam discussed the “Visioning Hightstown” event happening at the First Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 26 and encouraged the Commissioners to participate as the lakefront property may undergo redevelopment as a result of the planning initiative. It’s important to stress the need for arts and culture to be included in redevelopment efforts. He also suggested that the Commission put forth the idea of dedicating a percentage of new development and redevelopment in the Borough for public art. Adam noted that he will continue to revise the Public Art Master Plan to present to town council, and reminded the Commissioners to review the draft plan and offer comments.

There being no other old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Miller
Chair