

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission minutes  
3/18/15

Present: Barbara Harrington, Sue Howard, Mike Fabian, Adam Welch, Frank Rivera, Denny Hansen, Kerrie Peterson, Kim Bosnoski, Ann Marie Miller. Guests: Barbara Willcox DiLorenzo, Rennie DiLorenzo

Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to Public Laws of 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice as advertised in the Trenton Times and Windsor Hights Herald, as required by law, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office.

The February minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion for approval-Adam Welch, second-Barb Harrington

Ann Marie introduced Barbara Willcox DiLorenzo. Barbara said that exhibits at 12 Farms will occur every 6-8 weeks on a regular rotation and is open to professional and amateur artists and children. To exhibit submit 3 jpg images, and Barbara will assess depending on how full the exhibit space is for any given show. 100% of proceeds go to the artist. Barbara introduced her husband Rennie who is one of the partners at 12 Farms. She described the restaurant as a gallery with a really nice café.

Barbara also noted that 12 Farms has an online directory on its artist page - local artists name and website are listed and she is working to have a musician's directory page. Barbara noted there is absolutely no pressure to eat at the restaurant, some people do stay and eat, and she enjoys offering an artists reception. There are different themes for the exhibits - 2 themes out there right now are earth day, around the world, summer "down the shore", and a solo show planned for Peddie faculty member Cathy Watkins in the fall. Her real goal is to seek out the "hesitant artist," someone who is looking for a place to exhibit and boost their self confidence and encourage aspiring artists.

Kerrie asked if Barbara has reached out to the schools. Rennie noted that contact starts and then falls off with no follow through from school staff. 12 Farms will be extending hours beginning next week - 3/25. Servers can sell work and patrons are able to take work home, cash or credit card is collected by the server and then 12 Farms will write a check to artist. The restaurant has a hanging system and can accommodate a heavy piece if necessary.

Ann Marie noted that she will attend a grant workshop for the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission's local grant program on April 8 and that the grant is due April 28 and that gives us another meeting to discuss the application before it is due. The local grants support arts programs throughout the county. She said she thought the Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission might be eligible for a grant of about \$2,500 since it is a new commission, but that a plan of activities will be required as part of the grant. The group then discussed a variety of potential programs.

Mike Fabian asked when the RFP will be available and if a list of past grant recipients is available to offer some guidance. The following programs were suggested:

1. Library program - artists in community would work in the library and grant funding could support the artist/ instructors. The library has exhibited artwork by children.
2. Hightstown arts day - invite the community to open studios, print map of destinations, could be offered on off year for historic house tour, garden tour

3. Art and Garden tour - late June – in collaboration with Rocky Brook Garden Club offering the opportunity to view sculpture and other art in gardens throughout the Borough. Need to discuss with Shirley Olsen who runs the garden tour
4. Participation/presence in Harvest Fair – though no one is certain if it will happen this year. Sue Howard mentioned that the Princeton Symphony Orchestra may be able to offer their “instrument petting zoo.” Other ideas were creating an “artist alley” near the diner and Perennial Home, an art exhibit at the Wells Fargo Bank (if they would keep it open past Saturday hours), and a hands on art workshop at 12 Farms Restaurant. Denny said she would check with the Borough to see what is planned for the Fair this year
5. Theatre in the Park - June 9 through August 2 – Possible to arrange student scenes at the harvest fair, grant funds could support set crew and designing for Theatre in Park. Kerrie can help with budget numbers. Kim Bosnoski mentioned that this program was sponsored by Parks and Rec but would probably be more appropriately sponsored by the Arts Commission. As a Borough sponsored program it was insured. Kerrie said last year the budget was tuition from 15 kids totaling \$3,000. This summer she would like to get 20 students and lower the tuition to \$250. The Methodist Church was bad weather fall back, and attendance was about 200 at each of 3 performances. She said there is great demand for students to participate.

#### Public Art Master Plan

Adam said the draft plan that he circulated was a condensed version of other master plans. Its intent is to begin to outline the regulations and procedures needed to not only talk to planning board and town council, but to implement all of the Commission’s programs and activities, including public art. Adam went to a recent planning board meeting where the historical commission’s regs were reviewed page by page. Adam said this is an opportunity to make sure that the commission has its say in activities instead of town council making the decisions. This plan should also document how the Commission reports to town council and the planning board.

Regarding public art, it was noted that the agenda for next month should include a discussion about art along the waterfront to help bring people into the downtown. Ann Marie said she would reach out to Tom Moran at Grounds for Sculpture. No one is certain if sculpture from there can be on loan this far from their main campus.

Mike Fabian will help Ann Marie with the Mercer County grant proposal. Ann Marie will circulate the RFP to the Commission members and plan to review the grant draft via email and at the April 15 Commission meeting.

#### Other Business

Mike Fabian discussed a project his daughter is involved with called “Creative Connections” in Herndon VA. Artists bring unfinished work they want feedback on to a venue and the community offers feedback and a critique on anything from a painting to a play or piece of music.

There being no other old or new business Adam motion for adjournment, Frank seconded motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Note: Send master plan to Barbara Willcox DiLorenzo and Denny Hansen.