

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

10/20/2015

Present: Barbara Harrington, Ann Marie Miller, Catherine Rodrigue, Jonathan Shahn, Adam Welch, Sue Howard, Mike Fabian, Kat Liao

Absent: Denny Hansen, Peter Bussone, Frank Rivera, Kim Boknoski

Public in Attendance: John Hostetler, Juanita Yoder

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.

Ann Marie Miller called the meeting to order at 7:43PM. The September minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion for approval-Barbara, second-Adam.

The Commission first reviewed the Harvest Fair. Ann Marie thanked Barbara for her help with the Harvest Fair. Barbara distributed a debriefing to the Commission. She reminded the group that we did this to increase exposure for the Arts Commission. Barbara highlighted the four booths under the auspices of the CAC, the banners, and the sign-ups. Barbara noted the space was not ideal.

Ann Marie said she will generate a random drawing for the prizes.

Future considerations included the following:

- Need for presence on the main drag.
- Adam suggested that businesses pay for their spots, rather than having spots left empty by businesses not participating.
- People wanted a place to sit and hang out, but few seats were available.
- Volunteers needed for set-up and take-down.
- Adam mentioned the interest in lessons.
- Sue mentioned including high school students in the CAC activities.

Barbara asked whether or not we are interested in participating next year. Adam said he thinks it's worthwhile doing again, though we might reduce it in size and locate on the main strip.

Ann Marie mentioned a potential pop-up arts gallery downtown. Ann Marie has spoken with two Peddie representatives about a pop-up possibility downtown in space Peddie currently owns. Peddie has asked that any art work be covered by borough insurance. Ultimately, Peddie would like to rent the property, but it can function as a pop-up before it's rented. Ann Marie suggested this could be a display place around the winter holidays.

Ann Marie has done some internet research into pop-ups. Jonathan suggested it not be primarily a commercial enterprise. Ann Marie said the sheetrock will be completed by the end of the October. She said it won't take much art to fill the space. Ann Marie suggested a possible crossover with the Arts Station.

Adam suggested a local artist exhibition to start. Jonathan suggested a designated gallery exhibit is a better idea than combining art with a restaurant. Adam suggested a Hightstown show similar to what Peddie formerly hosted.

Mike said coverage would be an issue, and we should ask that the artists displaying their work be responsible for the coverage. Sue asked about the types of art to be displayed. Sue asked about limiting it to a theme. Jonathan said he doesn't think a theme is necessary. Sue and Kat suggested an invitational to display their work. Ann Marie said she will contact Peddie about possible dates.

Jonathan said Frank Rivera might be helpful. Sue spoke with Lee Stults about a space for the Arts Commission.

Adam asked that Commissioners look at the master plan before the next meeting. He said it's everything we were asked to do. Adam said the plan includes procurement and display protocols. He said it also includes an introduction, statistics, and a tax map that shows where art might be displayed. Adam said he would like to submit this to Council.

Adam said there's one controversial proposal similar to what Morristown just passed. Adam said the yearly budget is \$500. We need a source of revenue.

Adam read the recommendations from the master plan (Please see the Master Plan for exact language).

- Mike moved we approve the 1% for the arts allocation, consistent with what other municipalities are doing. Barbara seconded. The Commission voted 5 to 1 to approve this recommendation.
- A second recommendation is that the Arts Enrichment Funds can be aggregated and used on alternative borough property, rather than be limited to the properties from which the funds come. Ann Marie moved to approve the recommendation. Sue seconded. The Commission voted 5 to 1 to approve this recommendation.
- A third recommendation is that for each project the Commission supports, 5% of the cost be set aside for maintenance. Catherine moved to approve. Mike seconded. The Commission voted 6 to 0 to support this recommendation.
- A fourth recommendation is for Hightstown to match the NJ state allocation per capita spending on the Arts, approximately \$1.85 per person. Sue moved to approve. Barb seconded. The Commission voted 5 to 1 to support this recommendation.
- A fifth recommendation is for the borough to commit to a space for the expressed purpose of the Cultural Arts Council. Ann Marie moved to approve. Mike seconded. The Commission voted 6 to 0 to support this recommendation.

John Hostetler shared his background, and that of his wife, Elizabeth Morley, in grant writing. He said he is curious about funding sources. Ann Marie said we apply through the county for funding. Other sources of income might include corporations and businesses and foundations. John said we are a town center, which might open the Commission up to additional funding options. John offered his help.

Jonathan moved the Commission adjourn. Adam seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.