

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission minutes
9/16/2015

Present: Barbara Harrington, Frank Rivera, Ann Marie Miller, Catherine Rodrigue, Jonathan Shahn, Kim Boknoski, Kat Liao,

Absent: Sue Howard, Adam Welch, Denny Hansen, Peter Bussone, Mike Fabian

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.

The August minutes were reviewed and approved after revising. Motion for approval-Ann Marie Miller, second-Barbara Harrington. She also shared ideas for decorations and give-aways at the table and asked for other needs, easels, for the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) display.

Barbara updated the commissioners about the plans for the October fair. She indicated where the Commission will be located at the fair. The Fair opens at 8:00 AM for set-up and formally opens at 10:00 AM. Ann Marie and Barbara coordinated times for covering the CAC tables.

Ann Marie asked how we should handle the prizes. Visitors to the booth might leave their contact information and be eligible for a prize.

Ann Marie distributed a copy of the cards to be distributed at the Harvest Fair.

Kim reported on the triathlon event in support of Parks and Recreation. She said participation and fundraising were very strong. That segued into the fundraising needs for CAC.

Frank mentioned locating real estate to attract artists. Although Harvest Fair is important and will introduce us to the larger community, it is only a one-day event. We have spent a year searching for our vision with little to show for it apart from a mission statement.

We admire the Parks and Recreation model, Frank said. They have succeeded because they have the parks as venue. Early on we talked about the importance of real estate (the West Windsor model), an indoor space to which spectators would come and view our non-outdoor art. To this end Councilman Steve Misura, our then-liaison, promised to look into Borough-controlled spaces. Somewhere along the way the ball was dropped.

As a commission, we need to and must become pro-active on this front. We must demand the full resources of Borough Council to find a venue where we can exercise our mission. Borough Council needs to be an active partner if we are to succeed as a commission. As a first step we need to place the question of real estate on the Borough's agenda ASAP. Let's get back to our vision.

Kat said this is what West Windsor went through. Jonathan said we don't need a fixed space we own. We can use a "pop up" gallery space. Barbara said we need to bring to the Council a plan for the use of a temporary space. Conversation continued about possible display areas. Ann

Marie mentioned the old Farrington's store as a possible pop up store front. Ann Marie will look into possible spaces near downtown, as will Catherine.

Barbara moved the Commission adjourn. Kat seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21, 2015.