

**Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes**  
**9/21/2016**  
**Peddie School**  
**7:30 PM**

*Present:* Ann Marie Miller, Catherine Rodrigue, Susan Bluth, Heather Lisk, Mike Fabian, Genevieve Fabian (Hightstown High School Student), Barbara Harrington, Paul Mordetsky, Michelle Jordan (Park & Recreation Liaison), Frank Rivera, Jonathan Shahn

*Absent:* Adam Welch, Sue Howard

*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 7:30 PM. July Minutes approved (Barbara moved and Heather seconded).

Barbara reported on the Harvest Fair plan. She has made the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) needs known to the organizers. Ann Marie took volunteers for the October 8 Harvest Fair.

Ann Marie said Mike has taken charge of the Halloween Event. She said a small group met in August to develop a budget, marketing plan, and staffing plan. Mike said the big pieces are in place. Mike said he plans to confirm the firehouse reservation. Michelle offered to help, including placing signage in front of the firehouse.

Ann Marie reported on the Fall Theater classes. They are off for now, she said, but they plan to try again in the spring. Ann Marie said a walk through the space will be helpful. Susan asked about placement of the flyers. Ann Marie said it is posted to Eventbrite.com. She shared the challenges of tracking ticket purchases. A press release is ready to go, and the event is on the Facebook page. Ann Marie said they met with a McCarter events planner to get additional tips on how to structure the event.

Mike mentioned the silent auction. Ann Marie said the idea is to pull together a package of gift cards for the silent auction. Mike said it will take foot work. Mike asked about printing tickets.

Frank reported on meeting with Frank. Ann Marie and Frank met with Andrew Harrison, who is the gallery director at Peddie. Andrew is open to working with the Cultural Arts Commission. Andrew's goals are to dialogue with the community. Frank said Andrew differs from his predecessor in that the students are more involved with the gallery. Frank said it is very nebulous right now, but he is open to ideas. Frank said the Commission might curate a show in the gallery. Frank said we should come with some proposals. Catherine said she will follow-up with Andrew as well to clarify what's possible. Frank said he suggested when they met that they exhibit high school arts teachers in Mercer County. Frank suggested mixing arts students from various local high schools or colleges. Jonathan said there's no reason to limit it to Hightstown. Frank said the curriculum is important to the gallery.

Frank spoke about the outdoor sculpture solicitation efforts. He said he thought the idea for this Commission started with a desire for outdoor sculpture. He said he had hoped to bring

something to the Commission, but he has not succeeded. Frank said it is complicated. He noted the hurdles the Commission faces in installing outdoor sculpture. For example, he cited the wishes of one sculpture who wants her sculpture to be permanent. He said it gets more and more complicated because we have no budget. Jonathan mentioned sculpture at Rider College. He suggested we start on a smaller scale and suggested we contact Tom Moran. Ann Marie said Tom might know of someone from New Jersey who might be willing to loan a piece. Mike asked about asking the borough to build a platform. Ann Marie said they need to know what the platform is for. Ann Marie asked Frank to contact Tom. Jonathan said he is familiar with smaller scale installations. Frank suggested Eva Reichl, now deceased, whose estate might be interested in something like this. Barbara raised two issues brought up before: can we get a connection with the new development plan to secure space for public art; can we allocate a percentage of the construction costs for arts. Susan asked that Ann Marie send her more information about this. Frank and Jonathan agreed to work together.

Ann Marie said 118 Main St. has been rented.

Ann Marie suggested November meeting be dedicated to strategic planning.

Mike said we should talk about murals, something that can be done quickly. He said the place to start is the ally next to Tacorita. Susan said we need to find out who owns the two buildings. Mike added that we could offer prize money and have a competition for the mural design, set-up a jury, possibly involving recognized artists, to pick a winner. Susan liked that idea. Mike said the brick wall can be easily painted. Barbara asked, can we involve the community with that painting? Mike said maybe we can combine this with the Halloween event. Ann Marie agreed and noted Toms River does something like this. Jonathan reminded the group we want a mural of some quality. Susan will look into the property owners. Frank said this is a spring project. Jonathan suggested this might interest Andrew Harrison.

Barbara said in preparation for the November meeting we should restate our Mission. There's a lot in there that we're supposed to be doing. Ann Marie said we need to parse out what's doable with a Commission of this size. Barbara suggested we bring up the idea of membership again. Susan agreed that you don't have to be a commissioner to participate. Barbara said the public wants to work on the thing they're interested in. Susan said Parks and Recreation and the Commission should work together. Genevieve asked whether or not the Commission can have a website. Susan said she would look into that.

Barbara asked about meeting the second Wednesday in November, November 9, to talk about the strategic plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

