

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes
10/19/2016
Peddie School
7:30 PM

Present: Ann Marie Miller, Catherine Rodrigue, Susan Bluth, Mike Fabian, Genevieve Fabian (Hightstown High School Student), Michelle Jordan (Park & Recreation Liaison), Adam Welch, Sue Howard

Absent: Barbara Harrington, Frank Rivera, Heather Lisk,), Jonathan Shahn

Public: Ashley Hutchinson

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.

September minutes approved.

Ashley talked about a local dance studio, A Place to Dance at 100 Mercer St. Sue said she had hoped the dance students could do a witch dance, had the Halloween Party gone forward. She said they'd like to do a holiday show, but they aren't sure what venue would be appropriate.

Ann Marie debriefed the Harvest Fair. The masks were popular with children. Traffic was good, much better than last year.

Mike said we simply didn't get any interest in the Halloween event. Mike said we feared we would lose a lot of money if we moved ahead. By canceling early, we avoided losing a lot more money. Ann Marie and Catherine said the price point was too high for the drop by visitors. Adam said he noticed at Greenwich House that school had just started. He said the residents might be distracted by other events.

Ann Marie and Adam made a presentation to the Planning Board on October 13. Susan said they are giving serious consideration to Ann Marie and Adam's presentation of the master plan Adam drafted and the Commission approved. Ann Marie and Adam said they were happy with the meeting.

Ann Marie said she wanted the Commission to identify some focus areas and a calendar. The group generated some ideas:

Public Art

Mural – pathway (Taco Rito)

Adam said Hightstown had talked about putting \$1000 towards a mural

Build Partnerships

Downtown Hightstown

Peddie School

Rise

Other municipalities: Monroe, East Windsor

Springpoint/Meadow Lakes

Sue asked if Meadow Lakes might be willing to share space.

Ann Marie filled recorded calendar events. Ann Marie asked about another Empty Bowls. Adam said he thought it was a successful event and brought a lot of people out. Adam said he did an Empty Bowls in Princeton. They charged more and included an auction. He thinks we need to raise a little extra money. Mike asked if the art work was donated. He said he believes so. Adam thinks this was a great partnership. Adam said he'd prefer the fire hall to the VFW hall. Susan said there are issues partnering with Rise. Ann Marie asked who else we might partner with. Mike said Theater in the Park. Adam said doing it with a partnership makes sense. Susan suggested this be a fundraiser as much for the Cultural Arts Commission as for a partner. Commission members mentioned it was successful and suggested a winter date for the event. Adam asked whether or not we are partnering with Better Beginnings. Susan said she would look into it. Sue reminded the group about a silent auction. Ann Marie said the VFW and Byrne have offered us space.

The Commission needs to follow-up with Andrew Harrison (Peddie) regarding the Peddie Gallery space. Ann Marie mentioned sip and paint.

The Library might be another option. Mike said that's what Barbara is doing. Susan said the library is free.

Ashley mentioned a poster competition in a school. Genevieve mentioned contests they have at Hightstown High School. She said there are artists at the school who would love to have their art displayed outside the school.

Sue suggested a poster contest for Empty Bowls. Genevieve said she thinks that would be popular with student artists. She said the Artist Union is trying to do more in the town. Sue thought student art might be worth including in the silent auction. Ann Marie said it might be interesting to have clothesline art at Theater in the Park. Ann Marie asked about phone art. Ann Marie asked about dance.

Mike said we should try to do something with the mural in June. Mike shared the success of a pet mural, e.g., people paid to have their pet included on the mural.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9.

