

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission
Minutes 6/15/16
Caspersen History House, Peddie School

Present: Susan Bluth, Mike Fabian, Barbara Harrington, Ann Marie Miller, Frank Rivera, Jonathan Shahn, Adam Welch **Guest:** Leslie Koppel

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm with adequate notice of open public meeting. Jonathan moved for the minutes from the May meeting to be approved, with Frank seconding the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Ann Marie thanked Kim Boknoski for her service on the Commission, regrettably accepting her resignation due to a heavy workload and other public service on the Parks & Rec Commission. Kim asked the Mayor to appoint a new P&R liaison to the Cultural Arts Commission.

Hightstown Theatre in the Park - program registrations are going well and all programs are a go. Susan Bluth asked Ann Marie to update Stacey Judge about the performance dates in Association Park.

Harvest Fair – nothing new to report. A Commission info table will be there (potentially selling tickets to Halloween event) along with Adam Welch demonstrating pottery making.

County local arts program grant - Ann Marie noted that the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission application was done and was given to the Borough Clerk for signing and Council resolution before delivery by June 30. She thanked Adam, Kerrie and Mike for taking the time to read the proposal and offer comments and suggestions. The request is for \$3,500.

Halloween event – Mike asked the Commissioners what they thought was a reasonable charge for an event that would also act as a fundraiser for the commission. \$40 per person, and \$75 per couple was discussed as possible event charges. Mike expressed reluctance to request the firehouse ballroom for the event until Theatre in the Park began because he didn't want to impose too many space requests at the same time. Susan said she would forward the contact information for the ballroom to Mike. Frank suggested we lock the date in asap before another space request is made for the same date (10/28?). Before finalizing a price, it was also suggested that Mike research what charge is allowable considering the plan to make liquor available, and if there is a permit necessary re serving alcohol. Since Kim is no longer on the commission, and there had been a suggestion that her husband Jeff serve as DJ, that also needs further investigation in case we need to seek a new volunteer.

Rise check presentation – Leslie Koppel from Rise thanked the commission for their support. Ann Marie will follow up to be sure Rise receives the funds from Empty Bowls deposited at the Borough. Leslie noted that summer camp at Rise was gearing up for about 100 children ages 5-18 for 6 weeks with academics in the am, and fun in the pm. 90% of the campers are from low income families. Leslie noted that Jill Lee is the camp art instructor who mentors some of the older campers in creation of a bottle cap mosaic. She noted that August 11 is the Art Walk (Thursday at 1pm) preceded by a talent show at the McKnight School and invited the commissioners to attend. She also reminded everyone that the Latino Festival is scheduled for July 30 at Rocky Brook Park. Leslie, Ann Marie, and Adam posed for a check presentation photo that will be submitted to the Windsor Heights Herald.

Old/New Business – Adam suggested the Commission consider a chili bowl event in place of Empty Bowls with a chili cook off contest. Others reminded him that a chili cook off is part of the Hometown Harvest Fair. An Oktoberfest was also suggested for the end of September featuring beer steins and craft beers/home brews. Mike recommended splitting funds again with a charity and Ann Marie suggested maybe funds could be partially applied toward a high school arts scholarship sponsored by the Cultural Arts Commission.

Adam noted that he will be participating in another Empty Bowls event in Princeton on Sept. 18 to benefit Send Hunger Packing in Princeton that offers free breakfasts.

Adam also noted that he received word via Lee Stults that a building connected to the Art Station may be available for artist studio space. The owner is seeking to rent it out and it is an industrial type space that is suitable for a hot shop. The space is located behind the Rise furniture store and it is unclear whether there is heat or electricity.

Ann Marie noted that there is artwork at 118 Main St. by a 24-year-old young man named Keenu Hale. She learned that the space will be unavailable as of August because it has been rented out. She also has been in contact with commissioner Heather Lisk about an August paint and sip type of event, location TBD.

Barb also circulated a form if the Commission wants to have a table at the Farmers Market which is now on Thursday evenings.

Frank suggested that the commission dedicate one meeting to devising a fundraising plan.

There being no other old or new business, Frank motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Adam and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.