

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

2/17/2016

Peddie School

7:30 PM

Present: Ann Marie Miller, Catherine Rodrigue, Jonathan Shahn, Sue Howard, Susan Bluth, Frank Rivera, Heather Lisk, Kim Boknoski, Mike Fabian, Genevieve Fabian (Hightstown High School Student)

Absent: Paul Mordetsky, Adam Welch, Barbara Harrington

Public in Attendance: Mayor Larry Quattrone

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 7:30PM

Oath of Office

The Commission members took an oath of office.

Hightstown Mayor Quattrone spoke with Mike McKitish, Peddie CFO, about using Peddie's currently empty property downtown until it is rented. The group agreed the CAC can place something in the window to make the CAC presence known. The group returned to this idea later in the meeting, as Jonathan Shahn suggested we place art in the window at the downtown storefront without manning it.

Empty Bowls

Ann Marie Miller shared plans for the March 12 Empty Bowl Event. Sue Howard expressed her thanks for Adam's work in making the bowls. She later mentioned how positive the local response has been. She reviewed the menu, needs, and volunteers scheduled. Ann Marie shared flyers for posting. Ann Marie said she has reached out to local churches and we might reach out to more and to RISE. Ann Marie asked or volunteers to set-up and clean-up. Mike asked about a presentation as part of the event: speaker, slide show? Susan Bluth mentioned the need to raise money. Ann Marie said she understands that. Sue Howard said the CAC major goal is to raise the consciousness of the arts, rather than to raise money.

Jazz Fest

Ann Marie asked Kim to talk about Parks & Recreation and Jazz Fest. She said Parks & Recreation seem to be looking for a group to run things, but she suggested a joint subcommittee be formed with Parks & Recreation. Kim said there are a lot of good ideas, but they need help. The next step is to get back to Steve. Kim said she anticipates a meeting once a month to plan a Jazz Fest celebrated at various venues. Mike said he is happy to work with Susan on the logistics.

Harvest Fair

Ann Marie said Harvest Fair will start meeting in March. She asked about the level of interest among the CAC. The group reiterated the interest in a better site, more visible, for the CAC tent.

Twelve Farms

12 Farms is looking to extend the length of the exhibits at 12 Farms. They are also looking to take a small commission for works. He is looking for help in putting up and taking down exhibits. 12 Farms indicated they will split the commission if CAC can offer some help.

Old Business/New Business

Sue Howard suggested a money-making project might be sponsored bus trips. She mentioned New York and a site like Storm King as possible locations. She also mentioned Wintertur, the Wyeth Museum, and Longwood Gardens. Mike shared his experience with bus trips and spoke to the cost of the bus alone. Sue said she will check on the pricing. Frank said we should look into it. There are a lot of moving parts to this, Frank said. He noted large groups need to give museums advanced notice. Sue said she will do more research. Frank said we need to check on the costs. Catherine said that includes possible liability insurance. Mike said it might make sense to talk to the local churches about it.

Ann Marie asked for help identifying artists. Genevieve suggested students might be a good source for this. Ann Marie said March is youth art month. Mike said he'd like to keep it high school and up. Genevieve said she can work with Heather on this. Mike said if you post kids' art, there's some cohesion to that. Sue said it will give the kids a chance to jump into the world of selling art.

Barbara said she went upstairs at Byrne's Deli and thought their upstairs (now used for Irish dance) might be useful for a party or fundraising. Ann Marie thinks Halloween might be a good event. Mike asked whether or not it's available for a performance space.

Ann Marie said she went to a grant meeting and shared the guidelines for 501(3)(c) status. She said Downtown Hightstown is not a grant recipient.

Mike asked about an update on the redevelopment plans. Susan said there's nothing set in stone. The plan as of now is for mixed use downtown. The information is posted to the Borough website. Mike asked about Creative New Jersey. Mike asked about a community theater group for Hightstown.

Frank moved we adjourn. Catherine seconded. The meeting adjourned at