

Minutes for Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission

3/15/17

Call to order 7:30pm

Present: Ann Marie Miller, Susan Bluth, Sue Howard, Frank Rivera, Jonathan Shahn, Heather Lisk, Michelle Jordan (Parks & Recreation Liaison), Mike Fabian, Genevieve Fabian, Andrew Harrison

Absent: Dan Trent, Barbara Harrington, Adam Welch

February minutes approved: Hold on approving them

Pop Up Gallery-

Mike said time was too short for planning, so the shows get thrown up quickly. Mike said he was upset that it was just “friends of commissioners” and feels like it doesn’t represent the community. If we want to involve more people, we need to put it out there more.

Sue also has an issue with planning in advance for artists, but we don’t know size of the space beforehand. How could we select pieces in advance, as that is not practical for pop up? Even a juried show is juried to the taste of the jurors.

Moderating discussion- Ann Marie suggested we have a stable of artists in advance so we have a broader representation of the community, from which to curate. And the nature of Pop Ups are now going more in that direction. This way the public is included in the artists. Without a permanent space we don’t have time to plan far in advance. We need to look at both ways of doing this.

Frank took exception to Mike’s statement, because he and Jonathan prepared for the pop up on Mercer St over 6 weeks and he felt it was fairly well planned by him and Jonathan. Frank stated he is happy to not curate any more. Should we have an outside curator or juror for the next show? Who selects those people? Are we going to give out an honorarium for this? Avg. \$250 per show honorarium. And explain the idea of an entry fee. On the charity of others donating space, it isn’t courteous and it is unethical to request an entry fee. Frank reiterated that the artists were not “friends”, they asked other local communities to get the word about the Arts Commission out there more. He was asked about whether or not there would be an artist commission if works sold. We didn’t want sales to be a condition of showing.

Ann Marie suggested the idea of charging an entry fee at a previous meeting as just an idea.

Jonathan stated that they put a lot of thought into this and he doesn’t think it should be the same every time. A lot was also learned about space mattering, as this location had much less foot traffic vs. the last one.

Empty Bowls-

Sold 160 tickets to date, 2 weeks left. We have music- acoustic duo. We have A Place to Dance performing for 15 minutes. 16 dancers will be there, and are using the stage. Parents of dancers are buying bowls.

Sue will help with dancers and send flyer to Garden club and Friday club

Waiting to see if music people have sound system. Firehouse has some sort of speakers

RISE making a printed program for the day.

Barb made a thank you poster for sponsors and participating restaurants.

Monetary donations- St David’s Church in Cranbury- \$100, Institute Islamic Studies- \$200 (estimated)

Andrew will get a student who can document the event Andrew will also send flyer to the Peddie community. He can also put out a community service call for volunteers for set up, etc.

Crock pots from Rise/Chafing dishes, etc. at Firehouse.

Ann Marie went to check in with Bill Havens, the event had been whited out. There was a wedding instead. Bill called and let Ann Marie know it was resolved.

Soft Drinks only at the bar that night, liquor license didn't get done in time.

Andrew will do decorations for 20 tables.

Help needed day of-

We can get into the Firehouse early in the day. Ann Marie will email once she knows time, to help set up.

We will need servers for food.

We will need someone to pick up bread from First Methodist Church.

Old/New Business

Met with Andrew in the Spring 2016 to discuss Mariboe Gallery potentially having space for a show. Schedule for the gallery is curriculum based, he is very careful selecting artists based of what they can offer the students. Peddie is open to opening the space when there is time. There are 4 main shows per year. One option: winter slot which is a smaller time period, has been local or faculty show in the past. This would be from just after Thanksgiving to Mid- December, approximately 2 ½ weeks. Other option: Summer as the gallery is typically vacant from May- September. Offers a much longer stretch of time, but no students, so fewer viewers aside from summer camp. If we used December for a show, it would offer the chance to integrate community artists with students. Possibly run a workshop, depending on who it is. Andrew wants to know if we see Art Commission running and Peddie sponsoring, or other ideas?

Jonathan and Chrissy will be running theater camp again this summer. They are hoping to use Association Park more than the Firehouse.

Parks & Recreation will no longer be holding Farmers Markets. Instead, they are hoping to run a Fun Friday once a month, June-September. Sue will get the specific dates. Event will be in Memorial Park. They are hoping Art Commission will participate.

Genevieve informed everyone that HHS will be presenting Antigone this weekend.

Sue informed everyone that American repertoire Ballet will be at McCarter Theater on April 21-22, and will have day performances for schools & seniors as well.

Ann Marie is taking 50 people to Washington DC to meet with legislators at Capitol Hill in regards to NEA funds.

Swearing in Frank Rivera, Andrew Harrison and Sue Howard as Cultural Arts Commissioners

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm