

## Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

1/18/17

Peddie School

7:30 PM

*Present:* Ann Marie Miller, Susan Bluth, Michelle Jordan (Park & Recreation Liaison), Frank Rivera, Heather Lisk, Jonathan Shahn, Adam Welch, Mike Fabian, Dan Trent *Guest:* Greg Ciano

*Absent:* Barbara Harrington, Sue Howard, Andrew Harrison, Genevieve Fabian (Hightstown High School Student)

*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.*

December minutes approved with corrections offered by Barbara Harrington in absentia. Motion for approval by Mike, seconded by Adam.

Ann Marie introduced and welcomed Dan Trent as a new Commissioner. Dan grew up in Monroe and was active in the arts in high school playing trumpet, guitar, and in drama club. He attended music school in Minneapolis majoring in classical and jazz. He has lived in Hightstown for 12 years, with his private business for 10 years and plays for events ranging from being part of a big band to duos and solo. Dan is interested in doing more to serve the town with his passion for music.

Ann Marie introduced Greg Ciano, a guest, who is interested in offering children's theater FOR kids at the Ely House. Greg has worked on historical puppet shows that introduce kids to historical sites in Philadelphia. His theater career sidetracked when his family grew, but he is now interested in developing a script about the John Bull locomotive and its historical ties to Hightstown. Ann Marie introduced Greg and Kerrie Peterson and they have had several conversations about how they might work together. Kerrie is willing to run expenses through the Theatre in the Park program and help with background checks. They will continue to meet about script development and potential performances at the Ely House in June and/or September. Greg noted that insurance for any high school aged volunteers must still be determined. Greg has lived in Hightstown for 12 years and is eager to become more active and engaged in providing a fun theatrical experience (30-40 minutes) for kids ages 5-9.

**Pop Up Gallery** - Ann Marie provided an update on the Connections pop up gallery (Frank and Jon were late to the meeting because they were in the process of installing the exhibit). She circulated the gallery sitter form for commissioners to sign up during the week the exhibit is on display. She said she will provide a modest cheese tray with sparkling water for refreshments, and Dan Trent will share his musical talent for a short while during the opening on Friday. She thanked Frank and Jonathan for taking on the job of curation and installation and thanked Barb Harrington for her work producing the poster and helping distribute it as far as Princeton. The Borough is providing an insurance rider for the week of the pop up exhibit. Windsor-Hights Herald added a brief article in last week's paper.

**Treasured Lands Exhibit at Meadow Lakes** – It appears the exhibit is no longer open to the full community without invitation as originally described at the December Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Ann Marie corrected the enewsletter and the "invitation only" aspect is in the correction. She was to have received invitations to distribute to Commissioners but they were not yet been received in time for the meeting. The reception is apparently still happening on Jan. 29.

**Empty Bowls** – Adam threw a new record of 99 bowls on Monday. Heather has 15 bowls done by students and expects to have a total of 50 by the time of the event. Students are making 1 bowl to donate and 1 to take home. Heather will include information on Empty Bowls for students when they take their work home so parents can learn about the event, and to encourage their attendance. Adam suggested a silent auction component and thought Paul Mordetsky may consider a donation as well as Barbara DiLorenzo (signed copy of new children's book).

**NEED-** someone to take on responsibility to solicit silent auction donations.

**NEED** – Commissioners to begin to request soup donations. Michelle said Pompier Catering was in, and Catherine Rodrigue offered to contact Americana Diner. Ann Marie suggested we also include Morgan's Grill and Taco Rito since neither restaurant was involved the last time.

Ann Marie noted that Sue Howard suggested asking the dance school students to perform on stage and Adam asked Dan Trent if he was available that day to perform as well. Dan is checking availability because it appears he has another gig that day.

Ann Marie asked if the firehouse can add Empty Bowls to the sign in front and Michelle said she would check and see if that is possible. Eventbrite to buy tickets will be set up after the pop up opening. Ann Marie also noted that she met with Leslie Koppel at Rise and they are willing to handle income and expenses as a 501c3 organization, and acknowledge donors and inkind donations of food. Leslie is aware that we want to split the net income this time.

Old/New Business - Mike Fabian suggested the Commission consider piggybacking activities on a day of the week for Arts in Hightstown on Friday nights, or whatever night several activities occur.

Heather offered to help alternate with Ann Marie in taking meeting minutes.

Ann Marie noted that Mel Leipzig, who is exhibiting in the pop up, was willing to lead a bus tour to a NY museum to support the Cultural Arts Commission. Frank asked him when he delivered his painting on Saturday.

Adam asked Dan if he had other music related ideas and Dan suggested a live painting plus music event (music while someone is painting live), and an impromptu community sing a long because the carol singing near the lake was so successful. Suggestions were made like—consider a theme, or maybe around a holiday, so Dan will give it more thought, but everyone supported the spirit of the fun idea.

Adam asked if the trailer over by the firehouse might be available for use. He was referring to the earlier idea suggested about obtaining a shipping container that could be used as a working art space. Susan Bluth said she thought the trailer was being rented by the Borough. Adam mentioned an Air Stream trailer that was converted for use by an arts group as an example, called "Art Stream."

There being no other old or new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Marie Miller