

Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

**9/20/17
Peddie School
7:30 PM**

Present: Susan Bluth, Mike Fabian, Gen Fabian, Barb Harrington, Andrew Harrison, Sue Howard, Michelle Jordan, Heather Lisk, Ann Marie Miller, Adam Welch

Minutes

Minutes from the August 16th meeting were approved unanimously (Michelle motioning for approval, Barb seconding motion).

Treasurer's Report: Barb Harrington

There is not much activity to report at this time. We have 3 accounts: Grants, Borough Appropriation & our Trust Account (Fundraising). We will lose Borough funds if not used this calendar year, so we need to make sure we use those funds first.

Fun Friday Review

We were unable to do the final Fun Friday. Parks and Rec is unsure if they will still do next year. Our activities were predominantly geared towards children, ages 12 and under. Activities included rock painting, flags and paper flowers. People always inquire about the cost of each activity. Ann Marie said we are a presence but have no membership or follow up activity. What should we be doing for community outreach? Seems like people want workshops. Andrew said we need something long term: classes, etc.

Piano in the Park

The piano has been tuned. Ann Marie & Barb did the basecoat on the first piano. Barb created a stencil of the Cultural Arts symbol & did colors. We have the canopy and tarp for use when it is placed. Piano will be placed in Memorial Park, hopefully after Harvest Fair.

We also have a second piano from Meadow Lakes. Both pianos are being stored in John and Gwen Rebbeck's garage. John was an art major at TCNJ and would like to help paint, we would like to offer him the chance to paint the second piano. As we have more pianos, we will be looking for artists and students to also paint. Andrew said Peddie is capable of moving a piano and he would like students to paint one in the future, at school.

Sue wanted to know what we planned on doing with pianos afterwards. Will we auction them? What if someone wants to buy one? The pianos will be junked, as this is an invitation to play and interact in our community. If someone wants to buy one, then we would sell it.

Mike wanted to know if we could offer piano use to a band at the Harvest Fair. Ann Marie said if it is completed, we can ask Dan since he is in charge of music for the Fair. Adam wanted to know if we could put in on something movable during the fair, maybe pull it on a bike? Ann Marie said she knows Dan knows someone who may be capable, since that is something they are planning on doing downtown for Halloween, with Jazz music. Susan reminded everyone that they would need a permit for that. Adam said maybe we could set it up somewhere near the wheel throwing tent, he could encourage people to play. Mike said we need a sign for the piano, to encourage

people to play. Maybe we could schedule people to come professionally play the piano as well. Ann Marie said her husband could, but this is all only if the piano is completed by then.

Halloween

Mike said Dan may need to check with Stockton St homeowners to be sure the musicians he is having play jazz won't interfere with the music that they play for trick or treaters, especially by the monument.

Harvest Fair

Adam said he has everything he needs ready to go: canopy, wheel, etc.

Barb said she has 2 canopies and 2 face painters ready to do gruesome work. She is having a hard time getting w-9 forms back from the artists. We will have 3 areas total, possibly all together. Barb wanted to know if we should hand out literature at the fair. Mike said literature, a calendar of events and schedule ideally should be handed out. Events should include: Empty Bowls, Pianos, 12 Farms Art Openings, etc. Gen said she would see if she can get Artist Union to help out. Michele & Andrew can help out, Gen and Mike said they could help take it all down.

Empty Bowls

Last year, Andrew got Max (Peddie student) to video the event. Max asked if it would be possible to host the event at Peddie this year. It looks like that can happen. Andrew said Jim Truslow needs to know if more students are involved, as Peddie is closed for 3 weeks in March. Maybe we could run the event at the end of March? There is no way to do it when school is in session, because the kitchen would need to be usable for students. Dining Hall is a big open space, with round tables, 10 seats at each table. Hoping to also run 2 sittings this year, to allow for more time, hopefully for 400 people. Last year was only from 6-8pm. If we feed from 2 directions, that will resolve the buffet issues we had last year. Athletic Center Lot could be used for parking.

Interwoven Stories with Diana Weymar Update: Andrew

Event will be on October 11-13th. There will be an opening with student panel. Diana produces the pages, which Andrew didn't realize before we spoke about opening it up to the community. Not sure it will work. Ann Marie asked if we could find out the cost of pages, maybe it would still be possible. We would just need the dates of the workshops. Barb asked if Diana seemed resistant to additional participants. Andrew said she did not, maybe we could do 5-10. Peddie could possibly include that many additional participants.

Murals: Mike

Mike showed a PowerPoint of potential mural locations. Taco Rito was initially discussed. However, during the summer there are beautiful planters which may interfere, or artists may be opposed to having on their work. If we moved past the planters, it is pretty far down, and there are wires, etc. However, directly across the street between Tavern on the Lake and the bank, was a 10' 2" x 11' 4" wall. Not sure if it is part of the bank or the Tavern, but we can pursue the bank about it, maybe have the owner involved in picking an artist, if approved. Hoboken Arts Council had a great packet for their Mural Call for Artists, we could use a similar format. Michele and Adam suggested maybe it's owned by the Borough, and not a part of either business? Susan said

she can ask if the wall is town owned. Adam and Andrew agreed that they still like the Taco Rito space as well.

Volunteers

Mike suggested we really need a volunteer coordinator to be a part of our group. Susan said maybe it is something that Shirley Olsen may be interested in. Barb said we would really benefit from our own volunteers, maybe from our group. Susan said we don't have enough help, even commissioners aren't helping out at every event. We need to be supporting ourselves, we just need more help at all events.

Outdoor Art: Barb Harrington

A few months ago, Barb spoke with Public Works to see what we can and cannot do outside. She showed examples of things Jersey City has done to include the arts: murals, painted properties, made signs etc. to show the arts in the community. They have a map which shows where each of their art locations are, creating a "tour" of city via art.

Barb came up with some ideas for things we could do around Hightstown to show our artistic side: painting benches, top of the wall around the lake painted, a colorful new bike rack (would cost us \$5000) or even outdoor instruments in Association Park.

Ann Marie reminded everyone that no matter what, we would also need to talk to Parks and Rec. Susan said we need to make sure we attend a council meeting and make sure they're open to the ideas also, and to mention that we already spoke to Public Works, and that it would be no cost to the Borough.

Barb wanted to know if anyone had palette suggestions or ideas. Gen said bright colors may be too distracting, especially with us being a historical town. Andrew said there should be a theme that ties it all together. Michele said to make sure it isn't just solid, otherwise it may look like the town did it.

Adam wanted to know if we planned on doing this internally or externally, why us vs. other artists, since people may ask. He also reminded us we cannot use any historical imagery.

Andrew suggested we map out possible locations and present that to the Borough.

Barb said she would like to focus on Memorial Park for now. Adam suggested maybe we could all do it together. Adam then made a motion to do trash cans and benches internally. Gen seconded the motion and it was unanimously decided.

Master Plan

Adam reminded everyone that ordinances still need to be attached to our Master Plan. Each point needs its own ordinance that has to do with anything financial. Any construction by town was supposed to include 1% to come back to the Arts Commission, according to the Master Plan.

T Shirts

Barb said she would look into getting Cultural Arts T Shirts made for everyone during events we participate in.

Co-op Update

Jeff Bond is leasing the space. We only had 12 artists, instead of the promised 25. Would be \$225 each artist, and not feasible at this time. Will continue looking.

There being no other old or new business, Adam motioned for adjournment, with Mike seconding and the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th