

## Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes

2/15/17

Peddie School

7:30 PM

*Present:* Ann Marie Miller, Susan Bluth, Barbara Harrington, Michelle Jordan (Park & Recreation Liaison), Mike Fabian, Genevieve Fabian

*Absent:* Sue Howard, Andrew Harrison, Adam Welch, Heather Lisk, Frank Rivera, Jonathan Shahn, Dan Trent

*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.*

January minutes were corrected by Ann Marie. It was noted that swearing in of commissioners was omitted from the minutes. Motion for approval with corrections by Barb Harrington, seconded by Michelle Jordan. Minutes approved.

**Pop Up Gallery** – 112 people went through the pop up gallery and it received press mentions in US1, Town Topics and Windsor Hights Herald. A big thank you to Frank and Jonathan for curating and installing the show and thanks to gallery sitters Frank, Jonathan, Michelle, Barb, Heather, Marsha Levin-Rojer, and Ann Marie.

Ann Marie noted that a letter to the editor was sent and published thanking Jeff Bond for use of the space. Mike suggested we begin to solicit art work in advance of any future pop up gallery opportunities. **Ann Marie suggested we also consider charging a fee for entry**, jurying the work with outside jurors (not commissioners). He said we should have the goal of selling work, and Barb suggested coming up with various exhibit themes as part of preparation.

### **Empty Bowls –**

So far participating restaurants include 12 Farms, Pompier Catering, Byrne Café & Deli, Tavern on the Lake, Mannino's, Morgan's Island Grill, Taco Rito, and Fernando's.

21 tickets have been sold. Press releases went to Windsor Hights Herald, Princeton Online, and Matthew Drago. Leslie from Rise has a musical duo who offered to play. Ann Marie needs to get in touch with Ashley at a Place to Dance to iron out details. 1400 flyers are going to elementary school students (only Black and Rogers schools) for take home. Ann Marie will do a couple of follow up emails, and Rise is sending email to their large mailing list.

**NEED-** help day of (Mike will help). Pick up of soup at Mannino's, and drop off of soup containers to Fernando's day before or day of. Will probably need crock pots and extension cords (remembering that Rise has crock pots to use). Pick up bread at Methodist Church.

**NEED** – help verifying dishes and ingredients for those with allergies. (Barb offered to help by contacting restaurants a week in advance). So far we know Pompier Catering will offer bourbon mushroom bisque, Mannino's will prepare pasta fagiola, Taco Rito will do 2 trays of Crazy Nachos, Byrne Café will do penne pasta,

Ann Marie and Adam are planning to meet with Bill Havens at the firehouse to iron out details on bartenders and beverages. Michelle will inquire about beverage stock at the firehouse and confirm prices for bartenders (\$20/hr?) and beverages (\$1 pp for soda, \$4 pp for wine/beer?). Michelle will also see if the firehouse will add Empty Bowls to their outdoor sign or if we can enlarge the flyer and post outdoors of the firehouse.

Ann Marie asked Andrew Harrison if a Peddie School student might be available and interested in videotaping the event. A photographer would also be helpful.

Other promotional opportunities – Gen will try to post a flyer at Panera, Ann Marie will investigate St. Anthony's and Michelle will look into distributing flyers at the corned beef dinner to be held at the firehouse.

### **New Business – Good news!**

County grant – from Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission came in for \$1,000, double last year's grant.

Public Art Master Plan was unanimously approved by Planning Board at meeting on Monday night as an amendment to the Borough's Master Plan. Barb Harrington and Lee Stults testified in support of the amendment and the Planning Board was complimentary of the plan and happy to include it in the master plan.

Gen reported on the Artist Union at Hightstown HS and their art show planned for May 11. This year they are working out a mechanism to sell some of the art with the artist negotiating directly with the potential buyer.

Downtown Hightstown meeting – Ann Marie attended a meeting of Downtown Hightstown on Monday morning and there is new enthusiasm for the businesses working together. Some ideas included extension of Halloween activities into the main part of Hightstown from the Stockton Street residences.

Other ideas were bed races, and involvement with Peddie Schools' Community Day the last weekend of April

Andrew asked that we give more thought to an exhibit at the Mariboe Gallery and continue the conversation begun with Frank and Ann Marie last summer. Mike will also help.

Gen mentioned there were a good number of students continuing their education at a variety of different art schools (for theater, music and visual arts) and we discussed ways to acknowledge their accomplishment with a photo opp, a ceremony, or gift opportunity. We need to touch base with Heather to learn how many students are moving on to art schools.

Susan Bluth did the swearing in of Commissioner Barb Harrington.

There being no other old or new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Marie Miller