

## **Hightstown Cultural Arts Commission Minutes**

**5/17/17**

**Peddie School**

**7:30 PM**

**Present:** Ann Marie Miller, Susan Bluth, Barbara Harrington, Michelle Jordan (Park & Recreation Liaison), Adam Welch, Heather Lisk

**Absent:** Mike Fabian, Genevieve Fabian, Sue Howard, Andrew Harrison, 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.*

April minutes to be approved at next month's meeting.

**Downtown Hightstown Report-** Downtown Hightstown Committee meets the 1st of every month. The meeting was well attended by local businesses. Many of the businesses indicated that they want more activity downtown, especially art related activities. Ideas included something using the lake, Music Nights, etc. There is definitely a heightened interest in having more art related events from the businesses, especially after the "Welcome to Hightstown" & Empty Bowls event. Rennie DiLorenzo would love to see some more activities near the lake. Music series, Antique Car Show, Mosaics on the trash cans, a Water/Fire type event on the lake with floats and sculptures.

**Fun Fridays-** We need to have Crafts by Cultural Arts Commission added to the flyer. This event is being sponsored by Parks & Recreation, and we will be including an activity at each night. Painting Rocks to create a path along Rocky Brook will be the first event. Also looking at creating resin coated yoga balls that are artist painted, and putting them in various locations around town. Possibly a contest to "find the 24 yoga balls". We need volunteers for Fun Fridays.

**Harvest Fair-** Looking at hiring someone to run a SPX makeup stand at the harvest fair. Barbara and Ann Marie will come up with some additional ideas. Maybe yarn bombing in front of the library, on one of those benches.

**Mural-** Owner of Tacorito said he thinks it would be a great idea, and his mother owns the building. As long as it is a bright and colorful, he thinks there should be no problem. Could we do this during the Harvest Fair as well? Possibly with children assisting in painting design? Or could we look into using an Honorarium to have it painted? Possibly approaching Home Depot to get a paint donation?

**County Cultural & Heritage Committee Grant** - Deadline is 7/15/17

**Halloween-** Dan Trent is looking into getting people around Memorial Park for Halloween night. Barb suggested maybe handing out battery operated lanterns or something like it. Ann Marie suggested maybe doing a totem with light up tealights? Adam said maybe something on a stick that people could carry around.

**Latino Dance Party-** There will be a festival fundraiser, held on 6/17/17 . Susan indicated that they haven't approached Parks and Rec yet for approvals.

**Trust-** Ann Marie was in touch with George about setting up a trust for HCAC, still in process.

**Master Plan-** We need to go through Master plan again so that ordinances can be made for requirements. Lee said to work with Susan on this. In order to get the 1% given to arts, it needs to be in law. Adam suggested that we also consider including \$2/per taxpayer for the arts. Would give us \$10,000 annually to use. This is the state average. Susan said she doesn't think that would get approved as other commissions would also want it, but to create separate ordinances for the things we need.

**Pianos-** Susan asked about the Piano idea that was being suggested by Stacy from Meadow Lakes. Many Meadow Lakes residents have abandoned pianos. Idea of setting them up around town, similar to how it has been done in other towns: Lynchburg, for example. They would be tuned and artist painted, bright and beautiful, and left out for the community to use. Set up 1 in each park, to be adopted by their surrounding neighborhoods. Would need to be a seasonal "pop up" style, we would need to be able to store them over winter. Some locations: Rocky Brook Bus shelter, Association Park gazebo, possibly other spots. Gary Behrens is a Piano teacher downtown, maybe he could help with tunings, etc. Delivery may be difficult.

**Posters-** There is a "Keep Hightstown Clean" flyer going to Elementary Schools and a "Bike Safety" flyer going to the high school for posters. The posters will be hung up in businesses downtown to spread awareness during the summer months.

**There being no other old or new business, meeting adjourned at 8:10pm**