

HIGHTSTOWN CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of October 20, 2021

Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:35

Present: Sue Howard, Heather Lisk, Ann Marie Miller, Chanika Svetvilas, Cathy Tsao, Stephanie Spann, Susan Bluth Guests: Saira Wang, Howard Levine

Absent: Adam Welch, Dan Trent, Stephanie Spann, Jim Truslow

September minutes were reviewed and passed with a motion by Chanika, seconded by Cathy Tsao.

Ann Marie welcome guests Saira Wang who indicated interest in becoming a commissioner, and Howard Levine. Saira lives on Stockton Street, has two children, is a lawyer, and is interested in giving back to the community through the commission. Howard lives on North Main Street, is VP for Marketing at the State Theatre in New Brunswick and is interested in helping with Cultural Arts Commission as a volunteer.

Old Business

Anniversary Calendar – sales were reviewed and opportunities for sales were considered. Stephanie said she would offer calendars for sale at the Elks craft show, and there is also an opportunity to sell calendars at Light up the Lake. Perennial Home continues to request more calendars and Sue Howard sold 10 calendars at Friday Club and at Rocky Brook Garden Club meetings. There is also an opportunity to sell calendars at the Hightstown “Slice of Life” quilt presentation on November 14 at 2 pm at the firehouse hall. Ann Marie noted that she has posted several social media posts, and sent press releases to the Hightstown East Windsor Herald, and to nextdoor (online) and to patch (online).

Light up the Lake – Volunteers are needed to help at Memorial Park. Howard, Saira, and Sue Howard offered to help along with Cathy Tsao. Cathy offered to bring paper towels and garbage bags where pumpkin carving will take place. There is much community interest in the event from the Greater Hightstown Juniores, the Bethel Light Foundation, and the East Windsor Education Association.

Artist Meetup – Chanika reported that the online meetup has been on hiatus, but there are four artists signed up for the zoom meetup planned for October 26 at 7:30 pm. Chanika said we have not yet planned an in person meetup at West Windsor Arts Council until we can discuss more with WWAC staff. Gary Fournier has indicated he would like to make a presentation at the October meetup on his painting process.

Garden Club event – Sue Howard noted there is no definitive chair of the Garden Club, so planning any June event that may be in collaboration with the annual garden tour is still on hold.

Porchfest and public art – There is interest from the downtown merchants in a porchfest, so planning meetings need to be scheduled, and the asphalt art project on Stockton Street is still on hold until we can learn more about hesitation by the Borough Engineer. Ann Marie noted that the exterior wall of the Hightstown Rescue Squad could certainly use a mural and Susan Bluth said she would check with leadership at the Rescue Squad since they own the building.

Other – Ann Marie noted that Mark Fenton is planning a holiday arts and crafts event to be held at Dolly’s salon on Mercer Street every Sunday from Thanksgiving to Christmas. If anyone knows vendors who might be interested in selling, please let her know.

The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting will need to be rescheduled as Ann Marie and Susan Bluth are at the NJ League of Municipalities conference for the week of the regularly scheduled meeting. Ann Marie will send a few options out to commissioners to find a good date to meet in November.

There being no other old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with motions by Sue Howard and Chanika Svetvilas.