

HIGHTSTOWN CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of March 17, 2021
Zoom Meeting

1. Commission Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.

Commissioners present: Carlos Fernandez (secretary), Sue Howard, Heather Lisk, Ann Marie Miller, Kathy Tsao, Daniel Trent, Adam Welch, and council representative Susan Bluth.

2. Review of January Minutes
 - a. Request to add iCare information and link
 - b. Motion to accept minutes, approved unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Hightstown's Got Talent

Carlos reports that we received 24 entries for the Hightstown's Got Talent Showcase, scheduled for March 20. The submissions include works in music, dance, theatre, visual arts and gymnastics, and the artists represent diverse ethnicities, genders and ages.

Committee composed of Heather, Dan and Carlos reviewed the submission and decided to include all of them (three selections were abridged). Ann Marie communicated with the artists to inform them about the commissioner's decisions, and invited them to share the invite with their friends and family. Committee developed an order for presentation and basic script, and Carlos is working with Gustavo Arce Productions to six segments that can be aired on March 20.

[Script](#) and a sample segment were presented for feedback. Suggestions were made regarding additional information to share about the commission, including mission and programs.

The script requires participation of commissioners to serve as masters of ceremonies (Ann Marie, Heather, Daniel), introducing the show and each segment, and closing the program at the end. As acting mayor, Susan Bluth will open the program and welcome people to the event.

Sue expressed concerns regarding latency of video vs sound. In order to address the latency, and also deal with potential problems, a decision was made to have two presenters (Adam and Carlos), each using a wired connection to the internet, to share video segments throughout the evening.

Carlos raised the concern for internet security during the session. Ann Marie will limit screen sharing to host, and Adam will monitor chat to stop any disruptions during the event. Program will require

Ann Marie indicates that the program is being promoted on Facebook, the MCCHC Calendar, and local press, as well as on the Borough website. Susan suggest that it be promoted on the Downtown Hightstown page.

Artist Meetup

Ann Marie reports that two artists participated in the February meetup, including Clara de la Vega, who made a submission to the Hightstown's Got Talent program. Planning for another meetup on Tuesday, March 30.

300 anniversary (October 2021)

Adam reports that he secured 16-18 images from the Hightstown East Windsor Historical Society, and that they have been added to the Shared Drive, and shared the link with Sue and Ann Marie. [Need to secure the link.] Ann Marie indicates that they need to promote images with artists and encourage them to create new works in time for the fall submission date. Artistic images need to be ready by October for preparation and publication as a calendar for 2022. Sue indicates that based on her experience, the printing should be quick, within a week.

iCare Partnership

Ann Marie continued conversations with iCare, and they are interested in partnering in a series of workshops that engage Kathy Tsao (paper folding/cutting), Paul Mordetski (portraiture), Juanita Yoder (watercolor), and Ann Marie (fiber arts). Still need to discuss fees (for non-commissioners) and number of sessions, how many participants, ages etc. Could begin with a trial and see if there is public interest for more sessions.

iCare partners with Jewish Family and Children Services of Greater Mercer County and the County of Mercer, Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health & Division of Youth Services to provide free support services at its facility located at 133 South Main Street, Hightstown. For more information, <https://icareofewh.org/>,

NEW BUSINESS

Theatre in the Park Request

TITP requested support of \$750 for their 2021-22 season, same amount of grant as that of last year. The funds would come from the county grant (not Borough).

Motion to support TITP community programs with \$750. Motion seconded, and approved.

Public Art Projects for Summer

Ann Marie spoke to the Rise summer program art teacher who was in charge of the mural about possible collaborations for this coming summer. She also reached out to the Hightstown Environmental Commission regarding collaboration on a Sustainable Jersey Grant possibility.

Ann Marie indicates that the Borough should be paving the streets during the summer, so there is an opportunity to pursue the art crosswalk project between Rogers School and Walter C Black. Asks commissioners to consider either an RFP or suggests potential artists. The idea is to work with a professional artist who would design and lead the work. It could be possible to engage Peddie School students and/or Rise summer campers. She reminds commissioners that Leon Rainbow was involved in previous projects painting the dolphin at Walter C Black. Ann Marie will look into what kinds of approvals are needed.

4. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 on Zoom.

5. ADJOURN

***Motion to adjourn at 8:30 approved unanimously.
Minutes prepared by Carlos Fernandez and submitted 3/17/2021.***