

HIGHTSTOWN CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of April 21, 2021

Zoom Meeting

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

Commissioners present: Sue Howard, Heather Lisk, Ann Marie Miller, Allison Park, Stephanie Spann (P&R liaison), Cathy Tsao, Adam Welch, and council representative Susan Bluth.

Review of March Minutes – Adam motioned for approval, with a second by Heather, and the minutes were approved unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

2. Hightstown's Got Talent – Carlos wasn't present, but he was thanked for all of his hard work on Hightstown's Got Talent, and Heather, Adam, Ann Marie, and Dan were also thanked for their contributions. Everyone felt that the event went well, there was positive feedback, especially from the participants, and there were about 80 in the audience.
3. Hightstown "Then & Now" calendar – the Commission reviewed the slides and Ann Marie said she will begin to place a call for artists on social media and via the local press. The plan is to offer as many slides as possible and hopefully we can get art for 12-18 months. Deadline for art will be June 21.
4. Artist Meetup – Chanika was not present but Ann Marie thanked her for her help running the artist meetups that have been reaching artists in town, from Monroe, and from Ewing. Ann Marie shared Sheila Mashaw's email to Chanika suggesting we consider a plein aire event to paint the sites around Hightstown.
5. Collaboration with ICARE – Ann Marie is waiting to hear more from Beth Jackson and Rachelle St Phard from ICARE about moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

6. The downtown merchants are planning a reopening of businesses for the weekend of June 11-13. They asked if the Commission could recommend any musicians who may want to play outdoors to help the celebration. Ann Marie reached out to Dan, but there was consensus that musicians should be paid and the merchants should support them.
7. Other summer activities – Ann Marie asked Stephanie to report on any planned activities by Parks & Rec this summer. Stephanie noted that the Office of Emergency Management was restricting activities outdoors to hold to health guidelines like temperature checks, social distancing, disinfecting surfaces, and wearing masks. There were no planned Fun Fridays as of this meeting.
8. Other – Commissioners discussed a new paint surface for the large spool at the Old Hights Brewery, but it appears that the original painting by Geoff Trapp is holding up well. There was a social media post asking if any local organizations wanted to benefit from donations raised by the sale of canned beer, and there was interest in investigating that offer and applying for it.
9. Public art – there was limited discussion about painting the crosswalk on Stockton Street between Rogers and Black schools. Sue suggested way in which the community might be more involved in designing the painting. Adam reminded all that any artist commissioned for the design would want, at a minimum, to oversee the painting if not paint the street him/herself. Ann Marie will contact the county administration person to begin a conversation on what is

allowable and what permissions may be required. Painting will not begin until sometime this summer.

10. The Borough passed a resolution celebrating Volunteer Week thanking all the volunteers that support the Borough, and Ann Marie thanked all of the Commissioners for their volunteer support

There being no other old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35. Adam motioned for adjournment with Sue seconding the motion. The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2021.