

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission

Minutes | October 20, 2022 | 6:30pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Members in attendance: Jeff Aman, Art Jones, Tim McQueen, Jean Hinkley, and Onaje Benjamin

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MEETING

Onaje Benjamin moved to approve; Jean Hinkley seconded.
The minutes were approved by a thumbs up vote.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chm. Aman reported that there is increased funding for the arts in the City of Poughkeepsie budget. He also announced the reopening of the cafe in the Underwear Factory.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS—update

The Common Council has approved the appointment of another member of the PPAC, who will need to be sworn in before the next meeting. The PPAC will also be appointing a new member.

2. WHALE SCULPTURE IN WARYAS PARK—status update

Chm. Aman said the City Inspector has determined that the Whale Sculpture poses a public danger due to its deteriorating condition. A brief summary was presented about unsuccessful attempts to save the sculpture. A scan has been completed from which miniature models can be printed in 3-D. The tiles will be removed prior to removing the sculpture from the park.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS (continued)

3. RT. 9 UNDERPASS MURAL—status update.

Chm. Aman spoke about various problems involving the mural and its location. He reported that the City is looking for the original contract to see what the terms are within it—prior to deciding on what to do next.

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None.

VII. PRESENTATIONS:

1. POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT—Mariya Pushkantser, Director of Secondary Education; and Dr. Eric Jay Rosser, Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Pushkantser gave a very detailed presentation about the PCSD's wide range of offerings in the arts for elementary, middle, and high school students, and opportunities they provide.

Dr. Rosser also spoke at length about how we can use arts education as a catalyst and vehicle for children to maximize their potential as future citizens—as well as being educated academically. He also spoke about the importance of developing a comprehensive arts education strategic plan.

Several PPAC members were engaged in discussion with Dr. Rosser. Tim McQueen thanked him, while recounting his own development in the arts when growing up in Poughkeepsie.

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VII. PRESENTATIONS (continued)

2. STOCKADE WORKS OVERVIEW - Susie Sofranko, Executive Director

Ms. Sofranko said Stockade Works places an emphasis on inclusion and encourages participation of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. It has a strong local crew base and generous involvement from celebrities who live in the region also. About 25 trainees come through each year for Crew Boot Camp, and 80% of trainees receive scholarships. Trainees are set up for success to get jobs in film specific settings.

A former trainee, Jeffrey Francis (a Poughkeepsie resident) attended several Stockade Works workshops and he spoke about how it opened doors to his success.

Tim McQueen and Jeff Aman added statements in support of the value of Stockade Works for the Hudson Valley.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three minutes per person on any topic.

Poughkeepsie artist Suprina announced that she wants to make a presentation at the PPAC's next meeting.

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Gallery 40: Joel Brown, Frenchie and the Punk's Batfrogs, Beware the Basilisk**
- **WomensWork.art: Kay Gordon "BOUND" and "Ritual: Art and Witchcraft"**

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IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS/UPCOMING EVENTS (continued):

- **Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes and workshops at**
www.fallkillcreativeworks.org
- **Adriance Memorial Library: Latino Artists Exhibit**
- **Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibit by Kristen Lowe, Diane Christi, and Stacie Flint**
- **Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center:**
www.midhudsonciviccenter.org
- **Bardavon 1869 Opera House: www.bardavon.org**

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Jean Hinkley moved to adjourn the meeting; Tim McQueen seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 6:30pm

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary