

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission (PPAC)

Minutes | June 18, 2020 | 6:30 PM | Online Webinar

Attendance

- Members: Liz Dahmen, Victoria Horner, Jeff Aman, Azia Brown, Tom Pacio. Tim McQueen
- All Present

Call to Order

- Chair Aman called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

Review of Minutes

- Minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting were approved as presented by all members of the commission by way of “thumbs up” emoji on Zoom.

Chair and Commissioner Comments

- Aman made brief comments about recent events (virtual and otherwise, highlighting *Poetry-fest* with Poet Gold, sidewalk chalk during protests, HVPAL soap opera, ”Hawk’s Landing” and more. Queen City 15 opened following guidelines, other expected to follow.

Old Business

1. Arts Commission support of First Friday – suspended
2. Art exhibit in the common council chambers – suspended
3. Waryas Park whale sculpture restoration- Aman suggested a working group of volunteers be formed in pursuit of this project by focusing on history and determine what kind of restoration could be done in the future.

Resolutions

- None.

New Business

1. State of the Arts in Poughkeepsie introduction to a new pkgoarts web page supporting galleries, arts organizations, and businesses. Aman and Dahmen answered questions about the artist database for the website, including, but not limited to, the discussion of a job opening component, the quarterly update for this tool and what that means, etc.
2. Life after COVID-19: role of the arts in defining what the “new normal” could be - open discussion about ideas for future projects that are inclusive and welcome a wide variety of voices seeking expression, representation, and citizenry.

Presentations

Minutes prepared by Tom Pacio, Secretary

- **Queen City 15-** mural proposal made by Suprina. No funding requested, rendering and “branding” discussed, review of approval process for installations in public spaces. Aman followed appropriate steps outlined in Resolution No. 5 and set next steps including reviewing with Mark Nelson and eventually a vote by commission members. McQueen raised questions about policies in regards to commercial versus public displays.
- Aman recaps the Public Art Policy conversation with the mayor’s office and states he will follow up with mayor. McQueen asks some questions about logistics and definitions of public art practices, specifically during times of civic unrest and/or protest. Who approves what? Common Council or PPAC?
- Aman brings up new topic in regards to outreach practice for the PPAC with the goal of reaching more people and giving voice to a more diverse collection of community members. How might we do this? Could we have a forum/event that is perhaps part of a different arts event in the area.

Public Speakers

- **Gully Stanford-**
 1. Formalizing relationships between community-based artists, professional artists, and Poughkeepsie School District. Call for PPAC to play an “active role.” Community School status discussed.
 2. Stanford elected to BOCES board- consider invited Ms. Dewald to a future meeting to discuss Co-Ser program.
 3. Request for PPAC to send a letter to Albany to advocate for a release of funds for budgeted money for Summer Youth Employment Program.
- **Mary Flad-** comments on Community School topic and Waryas Park whale project, and “music truck” that traveled to four locations with eight musical collaborators/groups. (Aman commented with more details).

Upcoming Events

- All events cancelled or moved to virtual formats.

Chairperson Aman adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm. The next regular meeting of the Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm** via Zoom.