

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission

Minutes | July 20, 2023 | 6:30pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm.

Members of PPAC in attendance: Jeff Aman, Art Jones, Tim McQueen, and Brianna Charter.

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2023 MEETING

Tim McQueen moved to approve the minutes of June 15; Brianna Charter seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous ayes.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chm Aman said that he had pushed a number of items off the agenda until our next meeting in September to allow more time for our speakers today.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None

VII. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

1. POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - Maria Pushkantser, Dir of Secondary Education

Ms. Pushkantser thanked the PPAC, along with other community partnerships, for their help. She said they are moving forward to open more opportunities for students. She provided an update on the PPSC Comprehensive Education Arts Plan. They will continue to maintain an arts advisory group to ensure that the Comprehensive Arts Plan is successful.

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VII. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION (Continued)

1. POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - Maria

Pushkantser, Dir of Secondary Education (continued):

Ms. Pushkantser went on to say that every K-12 student will have exposure to all aspects of the arts, with various opportunities in selected areas. She provided more specific information on key investments as well as current developments in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the City of Poughkeepsie.

2. NEW YORK STAGE AND FILM - Liz Carlson. Interim Artistic Director

Ms. Carlson said that New York Stage and Film has been around for 38 years and its main purpose has been to develop new material for a broader audience. New stories are shared with local audiences to help work “get on its way.” After 35 years in collaboration with Vassar College, as of 2023 New York Stage and Film is forming a relationship with Marist College. The times have been somewhat problematic for theater since the COVID pandemic struck, but current summer season tickets for New York Stage and Film are selling well. The play *Hamilton* was supported 10 years ago and was originally just a one act play. *Hamilton*, along with several other projects went onto Broadway and off-Broadway shows. Ms. Carlson also provided many other examples of successful regional performances that occurred in the past, and she went on to speak about the process of passing knowledge and ideas up and down among participants, as well as shadowing opportunities for local high school students.

3. MICHAEL ACKERBAUER - Bartlett Park advocate

Mr. Ackerbauer said he in formally represents the “Friends of Bartlett Park,” people in the neighborhood who want to see the park developed in positive ways. He said it is a wonderful park for small children and families, a green space, and a “passive park.”

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VII. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION (Continued)

3. MICHAEL ACKERBAUER - Bartlett Park advocate (continued):

Mr. Ackerbauer also said that people in the immediate neighborhood surrounding Bartlett Park want to build on how it currently functions. They are specifically not in favor of adding a basketball court because, he claims, that is not what the park was intended for. Although there used to be a basketball court in the park, it was removed about a decade ago. He said that people living in the neighborhood around the park would like to see funding put into “events,” such as arts performances, because he maintains that this is what Bartlett Park is designed for as a “tranquil green space.” He pointed out that the park has a built-in amphitheater that can be better utilized. He also suggested that chessboards might be added to stress the idea of it being “a thinking park.”

Some discussion followed among PPAC members on the issue of how the City’s parks might or might not be intended to serve the needs of the all City residents of all ages inclusively versus reflecting more the concerns of people who live directly around them. Although this matter was briefly discussed (with some questions being raised), no definitive position was taken by the PPAC.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Trevor New spoke about the positive arts event held at the Trolley Barn last month, on June 21, 2023, which involved several interactive musicians playing collaboratively both live and virtually online.

Note: Trevor New had also performed at the last PPAC meeting (which took place on June 15, 2023) with him playing a violin live while another performer in Brooklyn, New York, performed collaboratively online.

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IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Powerhouse Theater / Vassar College: June 25-July 30 vassar.edu/powerhouse/season/
- New York Stage & Film / Marist College: July 14-Aug 6 newyorkstageandfilm.org/summerseason
- Upstate Art Weekend: July 21-23, Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory
- “The Highs of Life” - Exhibit at The Trolley Barn by The Art Effect
- Art Happens in Poughkeepsie - Block Party Celebrating Art: Clinton Street, July 22
- “Body Matters” - exhibit at the Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College
- Frederick Douglass Day: College Hill Park, Saturday, July 29
- Oaxaca Week: July 29 through August 6, Convey/er/or
- La Guelaguetza: Waryas Park, Sunday August 6
- Riverfest: Waryas Park, Thursday August 10 through Sunday August 13
- Jazz in the Valley: Sunday August 20
- Poughkeepsie Porchfest: Sunday, August 27
- Kaal Rock Park Concert Series: Saturday Sept 10, Sept 17, Sept 24
- Poughkeepsie Open Studios: Saturday and Sunday, September 9-10
- Gallery 40: “Flora Flora”: exhibit of work by William Noonan and Joe Radoccia
- Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes and workshops at www.fallkillcreativeworks.org
- Adriance Memorial Library: Chuck Misaan

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Art Jones moved to adjourn the meeting; Tim McQueen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary