

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission

Minutes | September 21, 2023 | 6:30pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Members of PPAC in attendance: Jeff Aman, Art Jones, Brianna Charter, and Carrie Decker.

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2023 MEETING

Brianna Charter moved to approve the minutes of July 20;
Art Jones seconded.

The minutes were approved by unanimous ayes.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chm. Aman introduced Carrie Decker as a new member of the Poughkeepsie public Arts Commission.

He also had words of praise for Mariya Pushkantser, who recently left her position as the Director of secondary education for the Poughkeepsie City School District. She also functioned as the PPAC's point person for art education.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None.

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: FUTURE FOCUS OF THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION—Open discussion on our future efforts.

Chm. Aman provided background information on the Public Arts Policy document that was approved by the PPAC in October 2021. He said he wanted to have it play a part in the City's Comprehensive Plan while was being developed. However, the City's Comprehensive Plan was focused on zoning matters, and our document was not considered pertinent to this matter.

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VI. NEW BUSINESS: FUTURE FOCUS OF THE COMMISSION: Open discussion on our future efforts—continued.

Chm. Aman also spoke about a spinoff “focus group” that he created, which got involved in trying to put together an action plan that was intended to relate to the vision plan within the PPAC’s Public Arts Policy document. Considerable discussion and questions followed among PPAC members regarding this “focus group,” its relevancy to the PPAC’s vision plan, and why and how it functioned.

Chm. Aman said the focus group functioned independently from the PPAC and presented some ideas beyond what the PPAC had developed as its vision within the public arts policy document—such as the need for a nonprofit arts organization (with a paid staff) that was focused on the City of Poughkeepsie.

Art Jones suggested that the PPAC needed to pay more attention to the official vision plan we set forth. He also pointed out that the PPAC's public arts policy had been taken off the City’s website some time ago and said it is essential that it be restored—along with the posting of missing PPAC minutes and agendas that were no longer being posted on the City’s website.

An active discussion followed among PPAC members on the variety of issues related to the City government’s future financial support (or the lack of it) for the arts, and what might be accomplished with or without financial support.

It was agreed among PPAC members that the next meeting should continue the discussion—focusing on the PPACs future plans in light of the Public Arts Policy and its vision plan.

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VII. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION: None

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Bardavon 1869 Opera House
- Kaal Rock Park Concert Series: Saturday Sept 23
- Gallery 40: "On the Way International Artists Exhibition
- WomensWork.art: "I Uplift A Broad Axe" Peter Benedetti
- Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes and workshops at www.fallkillcreativeworks.org
- Adriance Memorial Library: Chuck Mission
- Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibits by Frank Ritter and Morgan Kennedy
- Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center: www.midhudsonciviccenter.org

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Brianna Charter moved to adjourn the meeting; Carrie Decker seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary