

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission

Minutes | October 19, 2023 | 6:30pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF September 21, 2023 MEETING

Brianna Charter moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2023; Tim McQueen seconded.

The minutes were approved by unanimous ayes.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Jeff Aman provided an update regarding the posting of missing minutes on the City's website. He also reported that the candidates for mayor will be discussing their stands on support for the arts at the trolley barn on Wednesday, October 25.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: RESUME OPEN DISCUSSION ON ARTS COMMISSION ADVOCACY

Consideration of the PPAC's Mission statement posted on the City's web site.

There was considerable discussion regarding the extremely long mission statement for the PPAC that is posted on the City of Poughkeepsie's website. Brianna Charter and Carrie Decker pointed out that mission statements need to be more concise and between one to three sentences at most. Because the mission statement was not written by PPAC members, Jeff Aman will discuss the matter with City officials to see if the Arts Commission is permitted to make changes on its own. If so, changes will be discussed at the next PPAC meeting.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS: RESUME OPEN DISCUSSION ON ARTS COMMISSION ADVOCACY—continued.

Brief overview of the Public Arts Policy document with emphasis on the vision plan within it.

Carrie Decker suggested that the document needs a revision page at the end.

Art Jones pointed out some areas of the document that have already become outdated, and a few corrections need to be made, but he suggested that the document as a whole might not require any major changes at this point in time.

The Public Arts Policy was conceived to be a living document that can be changed as needed or as desired.

What role should the Arts Commission play in regard to defining the future of our city?

During the discussion, it was pointed out that the PPAC has unlimited power to advocate, and up to now we feel that we have accomplished a lot in regard to advocacy for the arts—but there is much more to do.

What role should the PPAC play in regard to embracing, celebrating, and protecting the diversity of our City?

Following insightful comments by Tim McQueen on how we might protect the diversity of our City, it was generally agreed that the PPAC can play an important role in bringing people together to experience, respect, and appreciate other people's cultures as expressed through the visual and performing arts.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS: RESUME OPEN DISCUSSION ON ARTS COMMISSION ADVOCACY

What role should the Arts Commission play with regard to arts education in the Poughkeepsie City School District?

It was generally agreed that much progress has been made recently. For example, the Poughkeepsie City School District has worked to develop a five-year comprehensive plan for the Arts.

In light of the value of the arts for the City, how can the arts contribute to Poughkeepsie's economic growth?

An interesting question arose during the discussion: *Do we have any idea about how much the arts currently contribute to the City's economy?*

In regard to this question, Jeff Aman wants the PPAC to review what the focus groups that he set up in the past (composed of participants who are not members of the PPAC) have suggested regarding this issue.

There was some discussion that followed regarding why focus groups were set up by the PPAC chair without input from other PPAC members, and why one focus group seemed to ignore our public arts policy and the vision plan within it. However, the PPAC members nonetheless agreed to review ideas that the focus group has set forth regarding the future of the arts in Poughkeepsie. This will be discussed further at the next meeting, when Jeff Aman will present this information.

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None

VI. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION: None.

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VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Gallery 40: "A Sense of Africa" exhibit with Shirley Parker-Benjamin and Emmanuel Ofori
- WomensWork.art: Diva Diosa exhibit and artist talk November 4
- New York Academy of Ballet: Upcoming Master Classes at <https://www.nyaballet.com>
- Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes and workshops at www.fallkillcreativeworks.org
- Adriance Memorial Library: Maria Fernanda Hubeaut, Carmen Lizardo, Isabel Cotarelo, and Daniel
- Lopez Venture
- Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibits by Frank Ritter and Morgan Kennedy
- Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center: www.midhudsoncivicscenter.org
- Bardavon 1869 Opera House: www.bardavon.org

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Brianna Charter moved to adjourn the meeting; Tim McQueen seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary