

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission

Minutes | May 16, 2024 | 6:33pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jeff Aman, in attendance was commission member Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon.

II. APPROVE OF MINUTES OF MARCH 21 MEETING DEFERRED.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Chair Aman gave an update on the map of the Main Street Corridor of Arts and Culture Venues that displays an image of the Main Street corridor in a positive way, not in terms of what it could be but as it current is. Visit pkgoarts.org/main-street/.
2. Chair Aman reviewed public input received during the previous three Public Arts Commission meeting regarding possible ways in which the arts community could activate and improve the Main Street corridor. This included things like public performances (music and theater), putting artwork on windows of vacant storefronts, “magicians on Main”, and many others. Commission Brisbon-McKinnon reminded us all not to forget about being inclusive, including those that are unhoused.
3. Chair Aman gave an update on the upcoming Juneteenth weekend, June 15/16. There are Juneteenth events planned around the City on Saturday. It will be followed by an afternoon of activities in Waryas park on Sunday, which is Fathers Day. The Public Arts Commission will have a tent to publicize many of the upcoming arts and culture events this summer, and there will be music, food, and fun.
4. Chair Aman discussed our desire for a study of the economic impact of the arts within our City, and the need to understand why the City should invest more in the arts. Dylan McCarthy has been invited to our June meeting to discuss some work done by the Jazz in the Valley organization to understand the future benefits of taking their annual event to a higher level.
5. Chair Aman invited the arts community to attend a memorial service for long-time resident artist Darshan Russell, who recently passed away. She participated in Poughkeepsie Open Studios a few years, she was represented by the Carrie Haddad Gallery in Hudson, NY for three decades, and she was a person that once you meet her you would never forget her.

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. MAYOR FLOWERS CALL FOR JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION VENDORS:

Chair Aman described the call for vendors, activities, and music the weekend of June 15-16 to grow the Juneteenth weekend event into a broader inclusive event. We plan to have the Arts Commission tent up to distribute information about arts and culture activities going on this summer. Check out the information on the City website and feel free to contact Stacey Bottoms. Mary Reynolds spoke briefly about getting PCSD students involved and maybe having student artwork on display.

2. MAIN STREET UNDERPASS MURAL: Chair Aman reported that the mural on the Main Street underpass at Rt. 9 is looking worse and that we have received a few more complaints. Mayor Flowers has asked the Arts Commission to investigate again and to provide a recommendation to her as to what should be done with the mural - repaint, replace, or eliminate. Obviously there are many complications with the mural because it is New York State DOT property that the City of Poughkeepsie can't maintain. We will follow up in a future Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Brisbon-McKinnon brought up the issues of artist rights and with dealing with NYS DOT.

VII. PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATION:

1. POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ARTS EDUCATION: Dr. Charles Gallo, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, and Phil Grusenmeyer, Supervisor of Secondary Education presented the latest status of improving arts education in the School District and plans going forward. They highlighted some key changes such as continued budgeting improvements to the auditoriums, the new Individual Arts Assessment Pathways to graduation,

2. THE ART EFFECT: Micah Jumpp, ACC AmeriCorps Member and youth from the Art Effect PKBAY group presented a proposal for an art installation in the City of Poughkeepsie. It was a lively presentation by the youth driving the process of creating and installing a large sculpture, led by artist Lala Montoya. The presentation package will be posted on the City of Poughkeepsie website. An open item with the project has been the exact location the sculpture will be placed, with the current thinking being near the Pulaski Park.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Poughkeepsie High School Arts & Music Fest: May 30, art 3pm-5pm, concert at 6pm
- Gallery 40: “Alchemy” - May 4 - Teri Figliuzzi, Mary Ann Glass, Marcy Juran, Laurie Peek
- WomensWork.art: Temporarily closed.
- New York Academy of Ballet: Upcoming Master Classes at <https://www.nyaballet.com>
- Fall Kill Creative Clay Works: Classes and workshops at www.fallkillcreativeworks.org
- Fall Kill Creative Textiles: Classes and workshops in the Glebe House
- Adriance Memorial Library: Exhibit by Anne Marie Kenny in the Rotunda Gallery
- Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibits - Paul Esposito, Adrien Seitz, “b.with the sea” Group
- Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center: www.midhudsonciviccenter.org
- Bardavon 1869 Opera House: www.bardavon.org

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm.