

# Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission (PPAC)

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Minutes | February 20, 2020 | 6:30 PM | City Hall, Common Council Chambers

## Attendance

- Members: Liz Dahmen, Victoria Horner, Jeff Aman, Azia Brown, Tom Pacio.
- Absent Member(s): Tim McQueen.

## Call to Order

- Chair Aman called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm

## Appointment of Public Arts Commission Secretary

- Aman moved, Brown seconded, Tom Pacio was appointed as (interim) Secretary of the Public Arts Commission.

## Review of Minutes

- **Meeting of January 16, 2020:** Aman moved, Dahmen seconded, and it was voted (5-0-0) that the minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting be approved as presented.

## Chair and Commissioner Comments

- Aman noted that the Dutchess County Executive's State of the County presentation is concurrent with this meeting.
- Aman thanked Tom Lawrence for his commitment and excellent service to the commission as member and secretary.
- Victoria Horner reflected on the community-arts conversation that took place during Modfest at Vassar College.
- At the last meeting, Mary Flad raised the issue of the whale sculpture. Aman visited the sculpture to assess its state, reports back that it is in poor shape; visited with Linda Marston-Reid (Arts Mid-Hudson) about potential costs to address the restoration of the sculpture. Mary Flad gave Jeff Aman her folder of information about the whale mural, including process for approval by the City, installation information, and prior restoration activities.

## Old Business

- **Art Exhibit in the Common Council Chambers:** update to agreement for a 3-month rotation keeping with old system of one wall showcasing one artist and the other wall representing other events and works.
- **Public Arts Commission Social Media:** Dahmen reported that we now have a connected Facebook page and all social media and online efforts are integrated. All online tools are in nascent stages, but moving forward.
- **Historic Bridges of the Hudson Valley:** Project moving forward with finding sponsors and creating tour map of 'decorated bridges' locations. Aman solicited interest for anyone interested in the project to reach out to PPAC for more information.

## Resolutions

- **None.**

## New Business

- **Outreach to New City Residents,** New residents/new developments in the city- how might we reach out to them to share what we are doing? Can we put together a plan that is appropriate for the different developments (Water Club, One Dutchess, etc). How do these developments share community information? How can we get involved? Is this a mailing with a list of events? Past efforts were high cost- ~70% of available funds for such outreach.

- **First Friday Expansion of Arts Component:** Aiming for July/August ideas to supplement First Friday activities. Proposal on the table, Brown and Aman will meet with FF team later this week. PPAC will subsidize artists to create this expansion and will take on funding these efforts. One recommendation from meeting attendee was to use clay as an option for this work (Fallkill Creative Works). Aman shared that certain experiences have been identified for this proposal.

## Presentations

- **Paola Bari** – “Meet the MATIS”- Queen City 15 Gallery, exhibit in April. Seeking promotional assistance. Brazilian community with fewer than 300 members. “Culture of survival”- art exhibit and lecture, collaboration with the Explorers Club, photographs and sketches- some on display, some for sale. First Saturday opening with lecture on April 11. Exhibit will run for the month of April.
- **Tobias Armbrorst** – from the Art Department and Urban Studies Program at Vassar College, working with the Multidisciplinary Programs. “Multis” at Vassar with a long tradition of programs that work between departments, now at 14 distinct programs with divergent faculty and students. “Becoming Collective” with guest, Jeanne van Heeswijk on Monday, 02.24 at 6pm at Vassar College, Taylor Hall 203. “How can we find ways and develop processes in which many actors can have a voice in the project?”, “How can it go beyond tokenism?” Shared Market Square project in Rotterdam that challenged and re-imagined how this public space works. Small businesses emerged out of these practices- beyond the boundaries of art practice and making visual the sub-cultures. Series of workshops in Poughkeepsie during residency/fellowship. **Free for meetings on Wednesday 02.26.** Will be back from April 13-22 and then again from May 7-12. [toarmbrorst@vassar.edu](mailto:toarmbrorst@vassar.edu)
- **Doug Nobiletti** Nostalgic Glass Wet Plate Studio. Photographer, Shane Balkowitsch (Bismark, ND) depiction of Greta Thunberg. Keep in the mindset of the arts (not politically-driven), large photographic print, members of the community raised funds for the mural. Awaiting statement from Marc Nelson before press release later this week.

Aman moved and Brown seconded support for installation of the mural and that the PPAC will help facilitate conversations around ownership in the future. if necessary. Motion approved (5-0-0). Aman will communicate to the City Administrator.

## Public Speakers

**Mary Flad** commented that the Shade Tree Commission may consider a collaboration with the efforts of the Thunberg mural project. Flad also updated the commission on the whale sculpture: has photos from the dedication from 2002. Whale was chosen as Poughkeepsie was a whaling port post 1812. Whale is symbolic of the whales that were rendered as part of this industry. Flad will make copies of pictures and share with the commission.

## Upcoming Events

- Aman noted that the First Friday evening will be March 6 starting at 5:30pm at Mahoney’s and Juan Murphys.
- The Hudson Valley Gospel Festival is scheduled for February 21-23 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel the Changepoint Theater, and the Nesheiwat Convention Center.
- Peter Buffett “A Concert & Conversation” at Vassar College on March 3, 2020 at 5:30pm in the Villard Room, College Center.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Dorsky Museum SUNY New Paltz - devised piece in the museum with art, movement. Reservation available at HVPAL website.

Aman moved, Pacio seconded, and it was voted (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. The next regular meeting of the Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm** at City Hall.