

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission Minutes | April 21, 2022 | 6:30pm | City Hall

ROLL CALL

PPAC Chm. Aman called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Members in attendance: Jeff Aman, Art Jones, Tim McQueen, Jean Hinkley, Jeff Kosmacher, and Alexa Comuniello

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2022 MEETING

Tim McQueen moved to approve the minutes; Jeff Kosmacher seconded. The minutes were approved by a thumbs-up vote of PPAC members.

CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chm. Aman introduced the PPAC members, noting that it was the first live meeting of the PPAC at City Hall in two years. He announced a newly renovated building in downtown Poughkeepsie, Crannell Square, that will offer special unit rental rates for artists.

Jean Hinkley said that applications were still being accepted for Poughkeepsie Open Studios that will be held Fathers Day weekend .

OLD BUSINESS:

WHALE SCULPTURE IN WARYAS PARK - Update from focus group: Chm. Aman provided an update on structural issues that are being evaluated prior to making decisions on necessary repairs.

OAXACA TEXTILE EXHIBIT - Status update: Chm. Aman announced that this exhibit will be held the first weekend of August and will feature 11 indigenous costumes. The exhibit will run from August 2-8. In addition, 5 women artists from Oaxaca will be exhibiting in late July, the week prior to the Oaxaca Textile Exhibit.

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RESOLUTIONS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DUTCHESS PARTNER IN THE ARTS GRANTS-Deadline May 10:

Chm. Aman announced that the grant application process is now open through the Arts Mid-Hudson grant process.

2. PROMOTION OF POUGHKEEPSIE SUMMER FESTIVALS - open

discussion: Chm. Aman spoke about the PPAC's past use of posters and postcards to promote summer festivals. Now the PPAC has a small fund from the City, which he said may be used for this purpose again. Jeff Kosmacher added that a QR code could be printed on postcards to help keep track of how many people are affected by the promo material.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. NEW YORK STAGE AND FILM - Chris Burney, Artistic Director:

Chris Burney spoke and presented a PowerPoint, providing information about past New York Stage and Film Powerhouse Theater activities at Vassar College, but said that he had recently also stepped off the Vassar campus and started to engage more with the broader Poughkeepsie community.

He also said that he fell in love with Poughkeepsie and even bought a house in the City. He is now working on ways to develop more theater activities with the City of Poughkeepsie.

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PRESENTATIONS (continued):

2. JAZZ IN THE VALLEY : Maggie Inge, Development Director for TransArt and Cultural Service, spoke about her organization's focus on the transformative power of art to preserve traditions of people of African descent. *Jazz in the Valley* is a music festival on the Poughkeepsie waterfront, which features NEA jazz masters, as well as a free stage for regional talent. She stressed the importance of this music event for Poughkeepsie, noting that the festival is great for boosting the local economy as it draws a considerable audience from the tri-state area. With this in mind, the festival is being planned to support local businesses, including restaurants and hotels. This year, the jazz festival will only be a one-day event, but it is being planned for two days next year.

3. POUGHKEEPSIE PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY - Trish Halverson: The Poughkeepsie Performing Arts Academy is an extension of the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy. Trish Halverson said the organization was founded by people of color who did not see sufficient support elsewhere.

Dance, visual arts, and theater are offered at the Poughkeepsie Performing Arts Academy. Music, however, is currently not yet offered in Poughkeepsie—although it is available in Newburgh. Before COVID struck, the Poughkeepsie Performing Arts Academy had 200 students, but now its enrollment is down about 50%.

PPAC board member Tim McQueen suggested to Trish Halverson that Poughkeepsie Performing Arts Academy should try to connect with New York Art and Stage and its Artistic Director, Chris Burney.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three minutes per person on any topic.

Gully Stanford thanked Tim McQueen for calling a Performing Arts Summit a few years back and also credited the PPAC for its support of the performing arts and arts education. He urged voters to support a ballot measure to restore the theater at Poughkeepsie High School.

David Henningsen spoke about Poughkeepsie's support of music festivals, which he currently plays a significant role in organizing.

CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Cunneen-Hackett Theatre: PoughETRY FEST - April 23rd
12:00-8:00pm

Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes and workshops at
www.fallkillcreativeworks.org

Adriance Memorial Library: Susan Wilson "Starting from Scratch"

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibits by Rachel Arielle Kleinman,
Barbara Masterson

Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center:
www.midhudsonsiviccenter.org

Bardavon 1869 Opera House: www.bardavon.org

ADJOURNMENT:

Tim McQueen moved to adjourn the meeting; Jean Hinkley seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thurs., May 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary