

Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission Minutes | June 16, 2022 | 6:30pm | City Hall

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF May 19, 2022 MEETING

Jean Hinkley moved to approve the minutes; Alexa Comuniello seconded. The minutes were approved by a thumbs-up vote of PPAC members.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chm. Aman spoke about the following:

Tim McQueen's recently held "Saturday Night Soul" and it was a success; the next one will be held on July 2nd.

Concerns are rising over book bans in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

The Poughkeepsie City School District board has voted to buy the Changepoint Church building with a number of uses being planned, including for the use of its theatre. The performing arts space is ready to go and arts programs might begin as soon as next summer.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. POUGHKEEPSIE ARTS AND CULTURE NON-PROFIT - arts community proposal.

Chm. Aman stated that there is need for an arts and culture nonprofit organization for the City of Poughkeepsie. This organization could provide services for artists—such as an easy and low-cost way to get a sponsor, and an events calendar. Annual Open Studios might also be handled by this organization. Setting it up, however, is not going to be a PPAC responsibility. A separate committee/group will be formed for this purpose.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS (continued):

2. PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - submissions requested.

Chm. Aman announced that some terms are expiring soon on the PPAC and we will need to find people who live within the City who want to serve as members.

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. PCSD STUDENT ART EXHIBIT - Future co-sponsored event with PCSD and the Library.

Chm Aman said we would like to do one next year and engage all of the schools in the area. The Poughkeepsie City School District, the public library, and PPAC will be cosponsors. We need to see how other cities have done these kinds of events.

2. POUGHKEEPSIE SUMMER EVENTS PUBLICITY - promotion by the Arts Commission

Chm. Aman said he will work with the City Chamberlain to move forward on this matter

VII. PRESENTATIONS:

1. POUGHKEEPSIE OPEN STUDIOS JUNE 18/19 - Update from PPAC BOARD MEMBER Jean Hinkley and Alexa Comuniello:

Additional information was provided about the upcoming Poughkeepsie Open Studios event that is taking place on Fathers Day weekend. There will be about 30 sites with about 50 participating artists. Juneteenth celebrations will also follow on Monday.

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VII. PRESENTATIONS (continued):

2. ART IN THE PARKS - Serena Domingues:

Serena Domingues spoke about her upcoming involvement at Poughkeepsie Open Studios and at the Juneteenth celebration. There will be an open mic for self-expression at Open Studios. She also talked about the “Art in the Parks” project at Bartlett Park in Poughkeepsie and about “Mindfulness Garden,” which involves making a garden with children and teaching them about the environment. There will be a planting with the kids on June 22.

3. CRYPTIC GALLERY YOUTH ART EXHIBIT — Ovid Reichelt / Brian Robinson:

Brian Robinson spoke about the exhibit that will be held from July 22 to August 2 at the 358 Gallery in Poughkeepsie. There will be no entry fee. All entries need to be submitted by June 22. The exhibition is planned to be as inclusive as possible in regard to seeking applications. A panel of local community members will include artists, educators, and mental health workers.

4. NEW YORK STAGE AND FILM IN POUGHKEEPSIE THIS SUMMER

Chm. Aman provided information about New York Stage and Film’s activities in Poughkeepsie this summer, which will take place at Marist College and Vassar College. He said that new work is experimented with and tested out before going to New York City and finding its footing.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 3 minutes per person on any topic:

Mary Flad brought up the subject of book burning situations in the Hudson River Valley, and said that the Poughkeepsie Public Library has prepared a policy on this issue.

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VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued):

Gully Stanford thanked the PPAC for encouraging the City to support the arts. He praised PPAC board members Jean Hinkley and Alexa Comuniello for their fine work in organizing the Poughkeepsie Open Studios this year. He also spoke about improving youth programs of the Poughkeepsie City School District, and suggested that there are some political candidates on the ballot in the upcoming June primary elections that might positively impact the arts and arts education.

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Poughkeepsie Open Studios: June 18/19 poughkeepsieopenstudios.org

WomensWork.art: Kaila Williams "Mirroring Mental"

Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes/workshops www.fallkillcreativeworks.org

Adriance Memorial Library: Jeanette Rodriguez "Whispers of Nature"

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibit by Carrie Decker, Joanne Thorne Arnold, and Cheryl McBride.

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

Bardavon 1869 Opera House: www.bardavon.org

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Art Jones moved to adjourn the meeting; Jean Hinkley seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thurs, July 21, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary