

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

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm

Members in attendance: Jeff Aman, Azia Brown, Art Jones, Tim McQueen, Jean Hinkley, and Jeff Kosmacher

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2022 MEETING

Jean Hinkley moved to approve the minutes; Jeff Kosmacher seconded.

The minutes were approved by a vote of PPAC members.

III. CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chm. Aman announced that multiple arts events are going on at Marist College and Vassar College through August 7.

Jean Hinkley mentioned the Phoenix Fest in Nyack, NY, which is a celebration of arts & culture that takes place in the fall. She suggested it might be the type of event we want to also consider doing in Poughkeepsie.

Tim McQueen talked about Saturday Night Soul at Kaal Rock Park and other events he is currently involved with this summer.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS - submissions requested.

Chm. Aman announced that the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council is reviewing current applicants. If anyone is interested in serving on the PPAC, they should check with Sarah Salem at the Common Council.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS (continued):

2. WHALE SCULPTURE IN WARYAS PARK - Update from focus group.

Architects, structural engineers, and masons have examined the Whale Sculpture and various possible ways to repair it have been considered. Costs to repair the sculpture are estimated to be \$100,000 and up. To fully restore the sculpture might cost \$200,000 and up. Children are climbing it as it continues to deteriorate. Salvaging some of the tiles is now being considered. A 3-D print to document the three sections of the sculpture is also being considered. A small amount has been set aside in the City of Poughkeepsie budget, but not a sufficient sum to repair it properly. A fence might be placed around it if the matter is not settled soon. The City awaits recommendations from the PPAC.

V. RESOLUTIONS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None.

VII. PRESENTATIONS:

1. POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CHANGEPOINT PROPOSAL - update from Kris Giangreco, PCSD Director of Special Projects:

Chm Aman spoke on behalf of Kris Giangreco, who was unable to attend the meeting. He reported that a decision has already been made for the purchase by the PCSD, and money is currently available in the budget to cover it. The plan is to have the Columbus school building return to operate as a school. Administrative offices will be moved to a location that is more convenient for the public. A vote by the public (on Sept. 6) is required for the deal to go through. The theater in the building is a major asset, which could have citywide use.

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VII. PRESENTATIONS (continued):

2. FREDERICK DOUGLASS DAY at College Hill Park, July 30 - Nancy Foster

Ms. Foster announced Celebrating the African Spirit's Second Annual **Frederick Douglass Day, held with support from Vassar College and the City of Poughkeepsie** on July 30 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. She also discussed activities that will take place that day and how they support the African Spirits' mission. These will include musical performances by the Souls United Choir and the Melody African Drum & Dance Group. In addition to these performances and other activities, "visual memorial posters" will be on display as well.

3. PORCHFEST - Mary Reynolds update on August 28 event.

Ms. Reynolds spoke about the third annual Porchfest event in the City of Poughkeepsie, which will be held on Sunday, August 28, from 12:30 to 6:30 pm. Porchfest will mostly take place on Academy Street, but will spill over into neighboring streets. It will include all kinds of music—ranging from jazz, blues, rock, etc. The Poughkeepsie Dance Academy will start things off. There will be about 35 performers and bands. She asked for volunteers to help out. Porchfest can be followed on Instagram and Facebook. No rain date has been set.

4. KAAL ROCK PARK CONCERT SERIES - David Henningsen, September 10, 17, 24

David Henningsen and Mary Reynolds are the sponsors of the Kaal Rock Park concert series, which will take place the last three Saturdays in September. Performers will include Light Warriors, Moonlight Initiative, Banned Jezebel, Ill Harmonic, and Saturday Night Soul. Details can be found on Instagram and Facebook.

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VII. PRESENTATIONS (continued):

5. NEW YORK STAGE & FILM SUMMER SEASON - Chris Burney

Mr. Burney reported that New York stage and film is now in the middle of its seven-week season. It is currently in residence at Marist College—and is performing there, as well as at Vassar College's Powerhouse Theater. He spoke about outstanding performances already held this season as well as about upcoming events. All tickets are \$25. The website address is: newyorkstageandfilm.org

6. HUDSON VALLEY PHILHARMONIC - Fran Duffy

Ms. Duffy addressed the crisis that the Hudson River Philharmonic now faces. The Hudson Valley Philharmonic is currently the second lowest paid union orchestra in the United States. It was an independent organization from 1932 until 1999, when it was going to be dissolved. Then, it was purchased (with grant support) by the Bardavon, but it is again in danger of closing down due to a lack of funding. Young peoples' concerts have been very important for the Poughkeepsie community, but this year, due to financial problems, they have not done any. No orchestra in the country is fully funded by ticket sales. Only about 25% funded this way. There is, however, no development director on the staff of the Bardavon. Therefore, little effort is being made to secure funding that might rescue the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. The Bardavon now wants to sever ties, and negotiations have been ongoing.. The suggestion was made that the PPAC could be helpful be making the public aware of this unfortunate situation.

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

Mary Flad spoke about the Hudson Valley Philharmonic issue to reinforce the point that the orchestra is an important resource for the community and especially for children.

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VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued):

Laurie Sandow suggested that the ChangePoint Church building might be a good venue for the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. She suggested announcing the issue in the *Buzz* to bring it to the public's attention. She didn't think the PCSD is open to working with everyone in the City of Poughkeepsie, and she expressed the view that the purchase of ChangePoint might be of benefit to the community as a whole.

IX. CURRENT EXHIBITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Upstate Art Weekend: July 22-24 www.upstateartweekend.org
- Oaxaca Textile Exhibit: July 29 August 5: Trolley Barn, MASS Design, Adriance Library
- Porchfest: August 28
- Gallery 40: Annette Jaret and Ellen Metzger O'Shea
- Kaal Rock Park Concert Series:
- WomensWork.art: "Enclosures" exhibit
- Fall Kill Creative Works: Classes and workshops at ywfalkillcreativeworks.org
- Adriance Memorial Library: Bridget Pavalow "Embracing"
- Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center: exhibit by Ivone Milani, Ted Dixon, and Sharon Frey
- Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center: www.midhudsonciviccenter.org
- Bardavon 1869 Opera House: www.bardavon.org
- Hudson River Philharmonic

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The next PPAC meeting is scheduled for Thurs. Sept. 15, 2022 at 6:30pm

Minutes prepared by Art Jones, PPAC Secretary