



CITY OF DOVER

ARTS COMMISSION – AGENDA

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Cafeteria, McConnell Center
Meeting Date: **Monday, October 12, 2009**
Meeting Time: **6:15 PM**

6:20 pm. meeting commenced.

Members Attending: Harvey Turner, Jeff Johnson, Joyce El Kouarti, Kim Schuman, Gail Tanner, Melissa Doucette, Jane Hamor

1. New Member: Bob Walker did not attend this meeting. Arts Commission members to check on his status.
2. Guests: Grace Dean, (potential new member), Jeff Spires (Dover Main Street) and Kirt Schuman (Dover Chamber of Commerce)
3. Discussion on Advancing the Arts in Dover with guests Jeff Spires and Kirt Schuman. The following topics and ideas came about from this session:
 - Joyce recapped the Arts Commission meeting with Dan Barufaldi and discussed the Commission's current initiatives of the Artist Database and workshop for promoting artists.
 - Kirt reported on the Coheco Arts Festival and how many of the local artists who signed up to display their artwork were no-shows due to weather and conflicts. He discussed a desire to get involved in Business Education to help artists run their businesses run more effectively. The Coheco Arts Festival is looking for volunteers to help on the committee and is looking to expand to film/dance.
 - City Nights Promotion: Summer event where stores and restaurants would be open late on a given evening and feature artists/musicians.
 - Arts Schedule: Chamber to develop a full season schedule of all arts activities in Dover from June to October and make available to all residents.
 - Dover Main Street website: Discussed how to combine efforts with Arts Commission to create artist database on that site.
 - Chamber of Commerce is trying to build a single community calendar and also increase usage of "Peek of the Week" to promote Art Gallery openings.
 - Seacoast Guide: Chamber is working to secure advertising space to promote Dover in this guide that has a circulation of over 150,000.
 - Artwork for Private/Commercial Property: Discussed how this could be a viable avenue to promote art in the city and supply work for local artists.
 - Cultural Assessment: Discussed ideas on how to get a grant for this type of project and how much of this information is currently available in the City of Dover.
 - Other ideas on promoting artists. Many other ideas were discussed on how to promote the arts and artists in Dover including: featuring artists in the Visitor's Center or a local restaurant; "traveling" art shows; showcasing artists using studio space; art demonstrations and education; monthly Chamber sponsored events; renovating the Strand Theatre to include live entertainment; incorporating new building architecture styles as art; and percent for art programs.
4. Workshop for Artists: How to Promote Your Art/Business. Arts Commission members discussed changing this to a forum where artists can come to share their wants/needs for promoting their business in the format of a focus group. Tentative date for the forum is in January 2010. Members discussed inviting Brint Shone to next Arts Commission meeting to discuss this idea and how to best collaborate with the Dover Mill Artist Collaborative. Members also discussed contacting former Arts Commission member Kathy Fink who is involved with the performing arts, to enlist her help in establishing connections with that area of the arts community.



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5. Meeting Summary from September 14, 2009 meeting was approved.
6. Apple Harvest Day Debriefing/Next Steps. Joyce, Melissa and Gail attended and manned the table for the Arts Commission. Melissa reported that she handed out Arts Commission bookmarks to vendors despite weather challenges with wind and rain. She noted that additional artists submitted information to be included on the Arts Commission artist's database. Members discussed locations where bookmarks can be distributed such as the Library or Children's Museum. Melissa volunteered to compile a list of locations for distribution of bookmarks and to start placing them in those locations.
7. Arts Commission Web Page update. Harvey reported that the Arts Commission mission statement needs to be voted on and approved by the City Council before it can be updated on the website. He is working on acquiring a "quick link" from the City home page to the Arts Commission page. He stated that he is looking for more newsworthy items to add to the news section of the website and that the artist database is up to date.
8. Dover Code 'Clean Up' Resolution. Has been submitted to the City Council and will go before public hearing on October 14.
9. Inventory of Dover Artwork. Melissa to meet to propose to members of the CATA organization at their upcoming meeting to seek their assistance in completing this task.
10. New Member Recruitment. Arts Commission to contact City to see the status of Bob Walker's membership. Grace Dean (guest) is a potential candidate for membership.
11. Arts Commission matters of interest:
 - Artist Nate Walker has requested to exhibit a giant crab sculpture at the Children's Museum for the next several months. This topic has been placed on November 9th meeting agenda to review and advise city of the Arts Commission's recommendation for or against the sculpture.
 - Members agreed that for future meetings, guests should be invited for a 6:30 pm arrival time.
 - Members discussed the "Shoe Program" of art/sculpture in Rochester, it's history and how might Dover benefit from a program like this.
 - Members discussed developing a "Featured Artists" spotlight for inclusion in Dover newspapers and using the Arts Commission's Channel 22 Powerpoint slide to direct readers to the feature.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.