

## Meeting Minutes

8/18/20 7 PM

### Meeting of the Arts and Tourism Commission

Present:

Helen

Laura

Chris

Michael

Timothy

Aimee

Nichole

No new member interest, but there was some interest on Facebook.

Judy Ryan suggested that she might be putting an application in, she has been involved in various town endeavours in the past.

The Newmarket Business Association has advertised the open positions.

Nichole made contact with Leann Wiley. She is in Africa, she will not be in town long enough to make any updates.

There were no changes to last month's meeting minutes.

Allen Mitchell might be interested in our storefront project, Nichole reached out and said he was going to think about it and get back to us.

We were reaching out to different landlords to review our idea.

New-To-You's landlord has not responded to Helen's inquiries so far.

Caitlin at Topsy Tabby is interested in a pop-up gallery. She would like for it to be steered towards cats.

Lisa Kesler would be interested in having some in her window even though she still is open.

Existing stores with window space might be interested, the Newmarket Business Association is going to reach out to their members.

Tailwaggers: Nichole reached out but did not hear back

Aimee: B Hive is going to be a juice bar and it's rented

Tattoo Parlor: No one has reached out yet

Chris will look at the store fronts and take pictures for the artists, seeing if any empty storefronts were missed. He will take pictures and provide them by the end of the week.

Halloween Haunt: still trying to figure out how to do this in the best way. Oct 24 would be the date. They would send out notices to the storefronts indicating whether they'd want to participate. Maybe a letter with a follow up call.

How many storefronts would we need to get started?

Try to identify 3 to start, and how do we get the artists and how do we decide who gets to be in which storefront.

Nichole has concern that this might be a Spring project because of how quickly winter is approaching.

Michael suggests asking an artist and assigning them to a store. Working with businesses can be tough and some businesses might require 6 or 7 inquiries before responding.

Could we start with the cat cafe and use that as a jumping off point?

Michael will contact Millspace to see if they have a list of art contacts. can think of some of his contacts who are artists.

We could put up a social media post to see what artists are available.

Helen will check whether we can have our own social media page.

Aimee reached out to the B Hive, he mentioned he had an artist who has asked about painting the mural in Pocket Park. On Facebook, someone mentioned honoring Cheswell. This might be a good project if we can't get the empty storefronts off the ground. The issue with Cheswell is that no one knows what he looks like. Town Council was mentioned in the Facebook group, and it sounds like if it went there, it would end up in our committee.

The Pocket Park mural was done by the afterschool group. It is town owned.

We can get a sketch of what she'd like to do for the mural and the committee can approve.

We would ask for a draft, sketch, or basic understanding of what would be going up in the space for our pop-up as well.

There is not town funding for these projects, we may be able to do fundraising. Maybe enough money for a couple cans of paint. We should assume that the person painting the mural will not get money for supplies.

No holiday open house with the museum, no tours, Santa Pub Crawl per Michael because of Covid.

Aimee is trying to find out a way to creatively have events while still respecting social distancing.

Long term planning is difficult.

Action items:

For the next meeting we want to start with Topsy Tabby who expressed an interest.

Put something on social media looking for artists.

We don't think this will get done before Christmas besides Kesler Agency and Topsy Tabby because of Christmas decorations.

We can use those two as examples and then try for more in the Spring.

Chris will get the pictures for Kesler and Topsy along with others with email by Friday and the artist will need to see what they're working with.

Michael will reach out to LACA and Millspace

Aimee will reach out to Pocket Park potential artist

We could post a call for artists on the community pages, Aimee will put something together and share it.

Helen was going to put something together for the bulletin/town newsletter on what we're looking for (Aimee believes this is going through Tim, maybe with Steve's approval). She will share with the group. We could use this to share to the various groups on Facebook.

Rec will put the newsletter post on their page as well.

Aimee will find out about the Halloween Haunt.

Next meeting: 9/15 at 7 PM