

Lower Paxton Township Arts Council Meeting held April 12, 2023

Members attending were Patricia Crawford, Laurie Holmes, Teresa Gonzalez and Shelly Echeverria.

Staff Liaison: Rachelle Scott

Guests: Michelle Thompson, Jim Milbrand, Maria Lagasca, Jennifer Regina and Donald Barr

Matters discussed include the following:

1. Introductions

Michelle Thompson introduced herself as the newly appointed Public Engagement Specialist for the Township. Among other duties, she will work with the Community Engagement Committee on the July 5K race that is a fundraiser for Arts Council projects, notably the Music in the Park initiative. Jennifer Regina is a graphic artist who is considering application for membership on the Arts Council. Donald Barr is an artist who resides in Lower Paxton Township and has indicated his wish to donate one of his art works to the Township.

2. Lower Paxton Township Variety Band

Jim Milbrand presented his written report showing the status of the LPVB accounts along with a list of scheduled appearances. His report includes a request for an additional \$598 for purchase of two wireless microphones. After discussion, there was consensus to hold the request until later in the year when there might be a clearer idea of Arts Council budget requirements or the possibility of contributions. Library Manager Maria Lagasca suggested to Mr. Milbrand that there might be an appearance opportunity at the Concert Series sponsored by the Northern Dauphin County Library.

3. Art at the Library

Maria Lagasca, Manager of the East Shore Area Library, stated that the hanging materials for the display of art at the Library had been delivered and could be installed by Library staff in time for an event to launch the display of work by Arts Council members, Shelly Echeverria and Laurie Holmes. The “meet the artist” event could be held on Saturday afternoon June 3 from 3 to 4:30 with small snacks and information about the artists available on the main floor of the Library. To publicize the art event, Maria asked for written blurbs to invite people to the launch and to promote the availability of the space to other local artists. Rachelle stressed the importance of development of clear criteria for screening art that the Arts Council will choose to exhibit.

The exhibit launch will be the day prior to the planned showing of the film “Summer of Soul” at the Library on Sunday afternoon June 4. There was discussion of Shelly’s idea that film attendees could be invited to dress in 60’s fashions if they chose to do so. There was no objection to this as a voluntary option.

There was discussion with Mr. Barr regarding how best to utilize his art work. He explained that he has a vast collection of his original work that features various local scenes within Lower Paxton Township. The painting that he designated as a contribution is of Central Dauphin East. Pat Crawford suggested that some of his other works might be appropriate for display at the Library at some point or as group in the soon to newly renovated reception area of the Municipal Center. Mr. Barr was invited to attend the next meeting of the Arts Council at which he might show some other examples of his work.

4. Book Discussions

Horse by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed on April 20 and **Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver is scheduled for June 15. The next selection or selections will be made by those in attendance on April 20.

Next meeting of the Arts Council is scheduled May 3 at 4:00 pm at the Municipal Center.