

# Town of Hudson Work Session at The HUB

October 5, 2017

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In Attendance:

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**Members Present:** Mayor Janet Winkler, **Commissioners:** Larry Chapman, Tony Colvard, Ann Smith, Carl Wagner and Bill Warren

**Others Present:** Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson and HUB Manager, Janice Woodie

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Call to Order:

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Janet Winkler called the work session to order, and stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss the ongoing partnership with the Caldwell Arts Council and their upcoming programs.

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Discuss Partnership with Arts Council and JAM:

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Janet stated that she wanted to bring the entire Board up to date on the status of the partnership with the Caldwell Arts Council. She introduced Launi Higgs, Programs Director for the Arts Council.

Launi stated that the Arts Council is interested in holding the JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians) program at the HUB. She presented the following proposal and information about the program.

## Partnership between Town of Hudson and Caldwell Arts Council

Caldwell JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians) is a low cost program that offers lessons in Traditional Appalachian Music to local children 8 years of age and up. Class sizes are kept to a minimum of 3 students and no more than 10.

We offer lessons in four instruments; old-time guitar, fiddle, mandolin, and banjo. We have recently offered a string band component to advanced level students, who are invited by the instructors.

Our instructors are Bob Henson, who is a retired admin. from Caldwell Schools, and has been playing music for several decades. He is a founding and current member of the Regional Band The Neighbors. He is also our site manager, who oversees day to day operations for the program. He teaches old-time guitar. Alyssa McLean, also a guitar instructor, has been around music her whole life and has been teaching for JAM for five years. She is currently attending school at Caldwell Community College. Mary Ervin, who teaches fiddle, joined Caldwell JAM last year and is also involved with Burke County JAM and started the Glen Alpine Fiddle club around 5 years ago. Doug Davis teaches mandolin, banjo and fiddle. Doug has been in teaching for over six years, and with JAM for 4 years. Dawson Clark is our youngest instructor, at age 16, he is a graduate of the JAM program in guitar. Dawson is in his second year with JAM and teaches guitar and banjo.

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The JAM program runs for 30 weeks throughout the school year, from October thru May. We have several performances throughout the year including a year end performance.

We are hoping to offer classes at the HUB Monday thru Thursday from 3-4 and from 4-5 pm, with two sessions being offered during those times. We have been offering classes in three schools for over seven years, and while the schools have been accommodating and welcoming we would prefer to be in one location that students come to. We see the opportunity to open access to more students from other schools by centralizing the entire program, and to run a more streamlined program that is not subjected to the school calendar.

We also offer a summer program that runs for 8 weeks with the final performance at the Happy Valley Fiddlers Convention.

For the Dance, which is still being considered, we would like to offer dance classes to area students with instruction led by Bethany Kirby Baumgardner. Bethany led the Art in Motion Dance camp we held this past August here at the HUB. She would offer traditional dance, ballet, jazz and tap and perhaps modern one day a week, for two back to back sessions during that day.

We would hope to start in January and run thru May or longer if possible. If this was successful and everyone agreed, we would like to grow this program to be year round.

We would love to be able to offer performances with both of these programs at the HUB if possible.

Janice Woodie asked how many spaces would be needed for the program.

Launi stated that they would need 2 spaces for 2 hours per day Monday thru Thursday. Launi added that all the money for the classes is handled at the Arts Council.

Bill Warren asked about concerts.

Launi stated that typically, there is one concert per year held around the end of May. She explained that tickets would be sold for the event to help cover the costs involved with the concert.

Janet asked Janice Woodie if the sound from the instruments would cause problems for other tenants in the HUB.

Janice stated that students that are in the HUB leave before 3:00 in the afternoon, so it should not bother them. She did state, however, that one of the directors of the students would still be in her office after 3:00, and the sound could disturb her. Janice suggested several spaces in the HUB that could be used for the program.

Ann asked if the same rooms needed to be used every day.

Launi stated that it does not have to be the same rooms everyday so long as they have enough notice to let parents know about the change.

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Rebecca expressed concerns about using the cafeteria or auditorium which are not typically heated or cooled on a daily basis. She stated that she would prefer space that is already heated and cooled be used for the program.

Lindsay Barrick, Executive Director of the Arts Council, stated that they respect that the HUB is a multipurpose building, and they would respect the possibility of having to use different rooms. She commented that they have very limited space available at the Arts Council for programs, and having a building like the HUB would be so important to JAM. She stated that the parents in the program are very easy to work with and would be willing to do whatever is necessary to have the space. Lindsay added that she is very excited about the idea of getting to expand “art” outside Lenoir.

Both Launi and Lindsay left the work session.

The Board discussed allowing JAM space to meet at the HUB. Janice Woodie stated that she has two rooms available that she could allow the program to use, and she believes she could make it work.

Also, Janet mentioned that according to Lindsay, they should be able to hold JAM at the Arts Council temporarily until Dinner Theater is over at the end of October.

**Motion: (Bill Warren/Larry Chapman) to proceed with allowing the Arts Council to hold the JAM program at the HUB as requested. Unanimously approved.**

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### Discussion of Future Plans for The HUB:

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The Board discussed their ideas for the future of the HUB.

**Motion: (Larry Chapman/Ann Smith) that any further consideration of the HUB at all would first be discussed by the HUB Committee with a recommendation being made to the full Board for a final decision. Unanimously approved.**

The Board discussed the importance of having a comprehensive plan in place for the future developments of the HUB.

Larry suggested that the HUB Committee meet with Lindsay Barrick to get her vision on what the HUB could become, and to discuss the possibility of the HUB becoming an Arts Center.

Bill Warren, Chairman of the HUB Committee, stated that he would contact Lindsay to see when she could meet.

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### Training Session for New Commissioners:

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Rebecca stated that she has been considering having a training session for the new Commissioners, which would include discussion of how the budget works, our policies, and our possible visions for the future. Rebecca stated that she hopes to do this sometime in November.

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Adjournment:

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**Motion: (Larry Chapman/Tony Colvard) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.**

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**Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk**