

# HUB COMMITTEE MEETING

January 16, 2018

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In Attendance:

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**Members Present:** Mayor Janet Winkler, **Commissioners:** Larry Chapman, Ann Smith and Bill Warren, **Committee Chairman**

**Others Present:** Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson, and Executive Director of the Arts Council, Lindsay Barrick

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Call to Order:

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Bill Warren called the Committee meeting to order. Bill stated that the meeting was called to discuss ideas the Arts Council has for the HUB.

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Discussion with Arts Council – The HUB:

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Lindsay Barrick thanked the Committee for getting together with her to discuss future use of the HUB. Lindsay reported that the JAM sessions that are being held at the HUB are going very well. She stated she is not sure how many are involved, but typically there are some that drop out along the way so the attendance fluctuates. Lindsay commented that when JAM was held at different locations, parents were using the program as a “babysitter;” however, since the program has moved to the HUB, only the serious ones have continued with the program. She added that it had been an interesting transition making the program available at only one location.

- **Art Show at The HUB:**

Lindsay stated that she feels there are opportunities going forward by making the HUB an arts center. She said that one of the main goals in making the HUB an arts center is to make people look at the HUB as an arts center. She stated that one idea would be to hold art shows at the HUB, and she commented that the Arts Council is considering making a request to hold their middle school/high school art show at the HUB in either 2019 or 2020. The shows are typically held in April and May, and Lindsay commented that in the past, they have had over 400 people come to these shows.

Bill Warren asked how long the art shows typically run.

Lindsay stated that shows typically run for about 3 to 3 ½ weeks – she said they refer to them as a month. Lindsay added that they also have elementary school shows in January, but they are considering changing them to May.

Rebecca commented that April and May are the biggest rental months for the HUB.

Lindsay commented that they may need to consider something other than the school art shows for the HUB.

Ann stated that the reason behind having art shows at the HUB was the number of people it would bring into Town, and the number of people that would be introduced to the HUB.

Lindsay discussed the amount of art involved in a show, and the possibility of having the art displayed on moveable display boards.

Rebecca asked how many art pieces are typically involved with an elementary school show.

Lindsay stated that the art teachers pick the best from each grade level, which usually equates to about 8 to 10 pieces per grade level.

Rebecca asked how many pieces were typically involved with the middle school/high school show.

Lindsay stated that there are not nearly as many pieces involved with the middle school/high school show as there is with an elementary school show.

Rebecca asked about using the halls at the HUB to display the art.

Lindsay stated that if the entire hall is used, it would probably work. She commented that the shadow boxes would need to be temporarily removed to allow room for the art.

Bill asked if the Arts Council has moveable display boards.

Lindsay stated that they do not currently have this type of display boards; however, volunteers from the Arts Council would probably get involved with helping build this type of walls. Lindsay added that there will probably be 3-D art too, which would probably need to be displayed on tables.

Rebecca stated that the 3-D art could probably be displayed in some of the empty rooms at the HUB.

- **Flexibility with Hours of Operation for the HUB:**

Lindsay stated that if the HUB is going to be become a legitimate arts center, there will have be to more trust with allowing teachers to have keys to the building and hours of availability to use the building.

Lindsay stated that this is especially important for scheduling adult art classes.

Lindsay discussed the hours of operation for the Caldwell County Arts Council building in Lenoir. She stated that regular hours are 9am-5pm Monday – Friday and 10am-2pm on Saturdays. She commented that they could follow the regular hours for the HUB for events held there.

Lindsay stated that if an art show is held at the HUB, it would include a reception. She explained that there would be a group of volunteers from the Arts Council that would serve as guides for the reception/show. She stated that typically members are assigned to certain grade levels, and they help parents find the art for their child. Lindsay commented that the shows typically last for about 2 hours, ending at around 6:00 pm.

Rebecca asked about having receptions on Sundays.

Lindsay stated that traditionally, receptions are not held on Sundays. She stated, however, that she would talk to the Arts Council about the possibility of having receptions on Sundays.

Ann commented that our businesses downtown are not open on Sundays, and the main point of wanting a show at the HUB was to bring people to our downtown area.

Larry asked about the possibility of having receptions on Saturdays.

Rebecca stated that our businesses are open on Saturdays; however, Saturdays are big wedding days at the HUB.

Lindsay stated that she would put out feelers to the parents and to the Arts Council about holding receptions on weekends.

- **Discussion of HUB Fees**

Lindsay discussed the fact that the Arts Council is a non-profit organization, and costs associated with their programs are typically very low. She stated that the instructors of the classes could, however, explain to their students that there are rental fees involved with holding classes at the HUB. This way, if there is not enough interest in the class, it would not make and the space would not be needed at the HUB. Lindsay commented that partnering with the Arts Council does not make a lot of money. She stated that if the HUB is turned into an arts center, the Town could be more involved with setting the fees for the classes.

Lindsay talked about the different types of art classes that could be held at the HUB. She stated that some classes could be held during the normal operation hours of the HUB. She also stated that some art teachers just need a space to come in, set up their class, and then tear down after the class is completed – sometimes all in one day. She added that the dance teacher is interested in doing a long term dance class at the HUB. Lindsay stated that the dance teacher is very flexible and willing to do her classes whenever she can. She stated that the dance classes are typically held mid-winter through May.

Lindsay stated that as for an art incubator – someone is starting art incubators in the northern end of the county. Lindsay explained that art incubators are long term processes, but they do fill a need.

Lindsay commented that one of the goals of the Arts Council is to help artists make a living with their art.

Janet asked if any of the art teachers in the school system are worried about whether or not the arts programs are going to continue to be taught in the schools.

Lindsay stated that funding and continuation of the arts in the school system is always a concern. She stated that the arts in the schools involves music, art, etc., and she commented that we are probably going to have to fight to keep the arts active. Lindsay stated that there have been studies done that prove the arts are vital for learning – the arts make our kids smarter.

Rebecca asked how the Arts Council is funded.

Lindsay stated that the Caldwell County School System is their biggest supporter. Other supporters are the NC Arts Council, corporate sponsors, foundation sponsors and fundraisers held during the year.

Rebecca asked if the Civic Center donates space to the Arts Council.

Lindsay stated that the Civic Center partners with the Arts Council, and she advertises for them through the arts programs. She explained that if they cannot come to an agreement about an event, the Civic Center has a non-profit rental rate, and they pay that rate for using the building.

Bill stated that his main goal with holding art events at the HUB is to bring people into our downtown area. Plus, having more people visiting and shopping in Hudson means more sales tax for the Town. Bill commented that it cannot be all take and no give.

Lindsay suggested that if the Town is interested in becoming an exhibit venue, there could be money involved. She explained, for instance, if a famous Hudson artist wants to display their work at the HUB, the Town could collect a portion of the money involved with the exhibits.

Lindsay also discussed holding concerts at the HUB, which allows a place for musical artists to display and perform their work.

Lindsay stated that she will go back to the Arts Council and let them know that the Town is considering hosting the high school/middle school arts show, and is also considering partnering for the dance classes.

Lindsay stated that she will also let the Arts Council know there could be rental fees involved with use of the HUB, with more information to come after the strategic planning session on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Rebecca requested that Lindsay give her a concrete estimate on how many pieces would be involved with a middle school/high school art show.

Lindsay stated that she would be back in touch with Rebecca as soon as possible.

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Adjournment:

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**Motion: (Larry Chapman/Ann Smith) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.**

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Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk