



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Arts Council
Tuesday, January 21, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2402

Members Present: Anne Berkeley, co-chair; Lisa Degliantoni, co-chair; Manuel Aleman; Greg Allen; Carole Bass; Heidi Bloom; Rina Gitlin; Stephen Guenther; Fran Joy; Rebeca Mendoza; Sergio de los Reyes; Dino Robinson; Nan Stein; Jacqueline Williams

Members Absent: Helen Axelrood

Staff Present: Jennifer Lasik, Cultural Arts Coordinator; Jill Silverman, Secretary II
Parks Recreation and Community Services

Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, Ms. Berkeley Co – Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Paige Luskin – Reporter for the Daily Northwestern

Mr. Steven Bialer - Owner of Hevanston Gallery, 529 Davis Street in Evanston. Steven opened in order to house his interests and be a welcoming center for the community. He has found it difficult to grab the attention of the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts & Business – Ms. Bass reported the next A&B meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 8:30 a.m. at First Bank & Trust. Ms. Williams noted in December they discussed this years nominations for the Leadership Award. This award will continue to be presented at the Mayors State of the City Address. Ms. Bass reported there are nine nominees and artists Alfonso Piloto Ruiz will be creating the award this year. Ms. Rotheiser is looking for members to volunteer on both the day of and in the planning committee for BackStage Evanston 2014.

Community Relations – Ms. Bloom reported the next Cultural Connections Luncheon will be held at Good Stewart Productions with a behind the scenes at a music and video production company Tuesday, January 28 from noon – 1 p.m. Ms. Bloom opened the discussion on what is the best night for people to meet.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Lasik reported the Mayor recently appointed a **Downtown Arts Venue task force**. The Mayor assigned two city staff, herself and Paul Zalmezak. The group will convene in February. She reported the **EvansARTs** working group final report is in its last draft and available on line by next week. The group reconvened this afternoon where they decided to continue and expand the working group and move down the list of action items. The next goals are to create a master plan for the arts. Ms. Berkeley is passing around an assignment list which list two openings for the EvansARTs working group. Ms. Lasik announced the first of three **HeARTh** winter programs, a "yarnbombing" event coordinated by the Public Art Committee. Knitters, crochet-ers, and fabric artists of all

ages and experience levels are welcome February 8 at the Main Library. The second program will encompass painting the natural ice sculptures along the lakefront date and the third is yet to be determined.

Ms. Lasik reported on **Art in Sacred Spaces**; with the help of Economic Development has identified 200,000 square feet of space for artists to use in church facilities. She announced the **Mayors Award for the Arts** will not take place during the Evanston Chambers State of the City Address. Instead the presentation will kick start October's Arts & Humanities month. During this event they will honor "Bright Spots" five minute highlights on artists or organizations creating innovative programming in the community. With that in mind keep your eyes open for creative candidates for the Bright Spots the segments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Gitlin has arranged for two separate **field trips** the first Hyde Park Art Center on Friday, January 24 and the Beverly Art Center on Sunday, February 23.

Ms. Berkeley reported the **Noyes Cultural Arts Center** tenants and Arts Council liaisons have been meeting on a continual basis to discuss the future of Noyes. Ms. Berkeley explained the City of Evanston would prefer a more vibrant, inviting environment where tenants are involved in the community. Ms. Lasik interjected that it's the Arts Council who would like to see such changes; the City is looking for direction either way. According to the City Manager if the tenants can't reach a consensus the Arts Council should move forward with its separate recommendation to Human Services Committee. Mr. Allen asked what the council can realistically ask of tenants if they are paying market value. Ms. Lasik wants everyone to visualize where the arts in Evanston will be in 2020. Is everything they are doing taking a step in that direction? What role if any does Noyes Center play in that vision? Mr. Allen reminded members the tenants are not used to thinking as a collective. It will take time to understand each other and work together. Ms. Berkeley doesn't believe they can work as a group. Discussion ensued regarding making tenant involvement apart of the annual lease. Ms. Lasik's stated it should either a standard lessor/lessee agreement or they move forward with a vision to include Noyes as a hub of vibrant activity where every tenant is involved. Members asked who is going to manage the building and tenant participation. Ms. Lasik noted city staff continues to manage the facility. Members agreed a part of the vision should include qualified full time administrative staff on site responsible for the budget, community service, tenant participation, curatorial coordination etc. Mr. de los Reyes moved to amend the Arts Council recommendation to include support of the original mission statement; highlighting the need for an onsite full time City point person and receipt of the Noyes budget, Ms. Joy second the motion. Motion carried (12 - 0 with one abstention).

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Berkeley passed a project assignment sheet for each member to commit to at least one project (2 members per project) of the Arts Council. She noted two of the larger committees, Backstage Evanston & Community Relations, should have 2 Chairs each. Ms. Stated that the arts are moving in a new direction. It is up to the Arts Council to be at the heart of that. Members should grab the opportunity; she is here to support their efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Berkeley welcomed Mr. Greg Allen back from being ill for a month. Ms. Berkeley and members extended condolences to Ms. Jennifer Lasik for the loss of her Grandfather. Congratulations to Ms. Fran Joy for the arrival of her second grandchild and Ms. Jill Silverman who just got married to her long time partner. Ms. Berkeley added Ms. Silverman is also guest curator of the current show on the first floor of the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. The opening reception will be this Friday from 6 – 8 p.m. Ms. Berkeley thanked Ms. Silverman and Ms. Stein for their curator efforts, of District 65 student works, in rooms 2402, 03 and 04 of the Lorraine Morton Civic Center. Ms. Stein reported there is an upcoming 65/202 art exhibit at Evanston Township High School January 22 at 7 p.m. This year's exhibit is based on the poem *Music* by Tolie Walker an Evanston local. Ms. Berkeley thanked everyone for their hard work this past year especially MVP Ms. Heidi Bloom who will be passing the baton as Co – Chair later in the meeting; Ms. Gitlin for her coordination of Backstage Evanston and field trips; to Ms. Joy for having nine arts liaisons and attending every single arts event in Evanston.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Silverman
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services