



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Arts Council

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street Studio 106

Members Present: Anne Berkeley, co-chair; Heidi Bloom, co-chair; Greg Allen; Helen Axelrod; Rina Gitlin; Fran Joy; Rebeca Mendoza; Dino Robinson; Nan Stein.

Members Absent: Manuel Aleman; Carole Bass; Lisa Degliantoni; Stephen Guenther; Jacqueline Williams.

Staff Present: Marty Lyons Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer; Bob Dorneker, Assistant Director Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Jill Silverman, Secretary II Cultural Arts Division

Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, Ms. Berkeley, acting as co-chair called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and second to approve the minutes of the September 17 meeting. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written.

STAFF PRESENTATION – Mr. Marty Lyons, City of Evanston Assistant City Manager, provided background on the City budget. He noted that City budget priorities for 2014 are facilities, utilities, and parks. Ms. Mendoza asked if the summer youth initiative has been a part of the budget process; there should be a program for getting young Evanston residents involved with the City budget. Arts Council members asked how more funding could be allocated for the arts in the City budget. Mr. Lyons explained that each Department was asked to provide requested changes from the prior year's budget. Specificity is important in the submission of budget requests. Ms. Berkeley, Ms. Bloom, and Mr. Allen will meet to discuss a request for an increased budget allocation for the Cultural Fund Grant Program. Mr. Allen asked Mr. Lyons if the revenue generated by the Noyes Cultural Arts Center is being deposited into a restricted fund as outlined in an ordinance adopted by City Council last year. Mr. Lyons said the City's certified annual audit for 2012 does not include a restricted fund for the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. Mr. Dorneker interjected, stating that there is a restricted fund that has been created for Noyes revenue. Mr. Allen requested a current report on that account. Mr. Dorneker said he will provide that information to the Arts Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts & Business – Ms. Penny Rotheiser reported on the 2013 Backstage Evanston event, which had the largest attendance in its four-year history. The possibility of

relocating the event to a venue with more lobby space will be explored in 2014. Ms. Gitlin added the committee is also thinking of the future ideas such as a Backstage Kids event targeted to young people.

Community Relations – Ms. Bloom reported that 36 people attended the Cultural Connection Lunch in early October. Attendees learned about the history of the Wesley and Greenleaf neighborhood and the blooming arts activity in the area. Ms. Bloom asked for recommendations for lunch venues for the coming year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Noyes Tenants Association chair Ms. Maggie Weiss asked about the level of daytime activity at the Noyes building in the early years. Should preference be given to artists who are in the building during regular working hours? This might provide improved opportunities for interaction with the community. Mr. Dorneker said that not much has changed regarding the daytime activity level at the building since the 1980s. He noted that former Arts Council Director Mr. Joe Zendell did bring a wonderful energy to the building in the evening hours. Ms. Berkeley suggested that this discussion be continued at tomorrow's Noyes Tenants Association meeting. Ms. Berkeley said she is compiling ideas from more than 60 people who have participated in brainstorming sessions related to the assessment of criteria for Noyes tenancy. The City will also have a new Cultural Arts Coordinator on staff, who will be able to provide their expertise. Ms. Weiss said that two new tenants have moved into the building; Ms. Jennifer Presant and Ms. Nicole Gordon are leasing studio 217.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – Mr. Berkeley announced Ms. Bloom does not plan to serve an additional term as co-chair. Ms. Berkeley said she would be willing to serve as co-chair of the Arts Council for one more year. A nominating committee was formed consisting of Ms. Bloom, Ms. Mendoza, and Mr. Robinson.

Field Trip – Ms. Berkeley asked for a volunteer to coordinate an Arts Council visit to a local community arts center. Ms. Gitlin said she would plan the field trip.

Downtown Evanston Arts Festival – Ms. Berkeley reported that she met with Ms. Degliantoni and Ms. Carolyn Dellutri, Downtown executive director, about the idea of developing an arts festival in downtown Evanston. A follow-up meeting will take place tomorrow night at Pete Miller's restaurant.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Stein mentioned she will have access to the **2014 District 65/202** school exhibit, and that it would be nice to display the work in a few different venues.

Ms. Berkeley reminded Arts Council members to keep in contact with their respective arts organizations. She will take any liaison reports that they have.

Ms. Joy reported on a meeting she attended with Northwestern University. NU is seeking to develop a program through which artwork could be loaned work for display in NU offices. They also have interest in collaborating on arts events in Evanston.

Ms. Bloom mentioned that Mr. Chuck Lange, former Evanston's Arts Council member, passed away on Sunday. He was a great man who was very active in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services