



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Evanston Arts Council**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street Studio 106

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

**Members Absent:** Nan Stein.

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

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### **Declaration of Quorum**

With a quorum present, Ms. Berkeley, co-chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The Arts Council welcomed Ms. Jennifer Lasik, Cultural Arts Coordinator for the City of Evanston. Ms. Lasik is eager to learn about the art and culture scene in Evanston. She is here to help facilitate in its continued growth.

**Public Comment** - Ms. Elizabeth Feiertag and Mr. Barry Kaplan, with Coco Deco introduced themselves as new not-for-profit Dance Company on Foster Street in Evanston. They recently participated in Backstage Evanston and are looking for more opportunities to collaborate in the community.

### **APPROVAL OF October MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written.

### **STAFF PRESENTATION**

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager announced the hiring of Jennifer Lasik, Cultural Arts Coordinator for the City of Evanston, who will staff the Arts & Recreation boards. He reported the Parks and Recreation staff will be leaving the Noyes Cultural Arts Center and moving on to other departmental responsibilities. Ms. Berkeley added she has been in communication with Mr. Dorneker requesting that he provide her with the current budget for Noyes. She was told it will be available in the coming weeks.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arts & Business** – Ms. Bloom reported they are seeking nominations for the Leadership Award which honors local business owners supportive of the arts. The

award is presented at the Mayors State of the City Address. This year's award has been created by local sculptor Alfonso Piloto Nieves Ruiz.

**Community Relations** – Ms. Joy reported meeting with Northwestern University, city staff and Public Art board members to discuss further the idea of spreading art into the community. Their first event will be a college student art exhibit at the Evanston Main Library. It was suggested that Public Art take the lead on these events. Ms. Bloom reported the next Cultural Connection Luncheon will be January 28 at noon. They are working on a topic to discuss. Ms. Berkeley relayed Ms. Bloom has stepped down as Chair to the subcommittee, who would like to take her place. Ms. Joy offered up her services as Chair. Ms. Berkeley noted every member should have at least two meetings to attend a month...this one and a subcommittee of choice.

Ms. Bloom reported \$11,500 in distributions available for this year Cultural Fund Grant. The question still remains do we continue to fund large organizations in Evanston. Mr. de los Reyes noted organizations big and small need every grant they can in order to obtain more funding. Mr. Allen would like to see funding given to small organizations under \$100,000. Ms. Mendoza suggested the grant be specific to those organizations that provide free creative outreach to the community. Members are keen to change criteria each year. This is a bigger conversation that should be held at the next Community Relations subcommittee meeting. Ms. Lasik feels criteria shouldn't change each year; continuity is important. In order to keep it fresh she suggests using key words such as "extra points for" or "priority will be given to"... Ms. Berkeley asked that Ms. Joy put together recommendations to be reviewed at the next Community Relations meeting. Ms. Lasik will contact Ms. Joy with additional information.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Noyes Building Criteria** – Mr. Allen reported the tenant association and arts council representatives have been meeting to work towards a consensus. A couple questions have been resolved such as large organizations can rent no more than 16% and large organizations in total can not exceed 55% of the building. Ms. Berkeley added there are other items the City Manager would like the artists to address; such as inviting the greater community into the space; artists find this challenging. Ms. Degliantoni supports artists who don't want to participate. She explained most artists want to be left alone to create art. Mr. Allen is confident he can find a compromise.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2014 Meeting Schedule** - Members moved to approve the Evanston Arts Council meeting schedule for 2014, motion carried unanimously.

**Elections** - Ms. Bloom announced she is stepping down as Co – Chair of the Arts Council. Ms. Bloom nominated Ms. Nan Stein to continue in the roll of Member at Large, Ms. Degliantoni second the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Berkeley, Ms. Joy and Ms. Degliantoni have been nominated to serve as Co – Chair. Ms. Joy declined the honor. Mr. Allen moved to approve Ms. Berkeley and Ms. Degliantoni as the new Co – Chairs of the Evanston Arts Council, second by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Field Trip** – Ms. Gitlin is coordinating field trips to the Hyde Park Art Center and Beverly Art Center. Be on the look out for a Doodle scheduling request soon.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Robinson announced Shorefront Legacy Center has moved temporarily into the basement of the Unitarian Church on Ridge Avenue at Noyes.

Ms. Bass announced the Northwestern Art Department is holding an art showcase from 3 – 6 pm this Friday, November 22 at Kresge Hall.

Ms. Bloom announced Evanston Arts Center, Musical Offering and Piven Theatre Workshop will serve as arts partners to the Montessori based high school, Beacon Academy, which will be located at 622 Davis Street.

Mr. Aleman reported attending the Evanston High School performance of The Three Musketeers and it was fantastic. He encourages everyone to attend the upcoming performances.

In closing, Ms. Lasik relayed she would love to see the arts involved in every aspect of everyday living. She would like to see at least one project in each ward. Ms. Lasik's goal is for Evanston to be the place people go for the arts.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman  
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services