



## MEETING MINUTES

### **Evanston Arts Council**

Tuesday, February 10, 2014

6:37 pm

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

Members Present: Lisa Degliantoni, Co-Chair; Sergio de los Reyes, Co-Chair; Carole Bass; Fran Joy; Helen Axelrod; Greg Allen; Gay Riseborough; Nan Stein; Anne Berkeley; Judith Cohen; Greg Allen

Members Absent: Manuel Aleman; Dino Robinson

Staff Present: Jennifer Lasik, Cultural Arts Coordinator; Jason Brown, Program Assistant

Public Present: Angela Valavanis, Creative Coworking; Tom Sollers, ETHS; Nick Gehl, ETHS; Ross Martens, Alley Gallery; Annie Coakley, Downtown Evanston; Penny Rotheiser, Arts and Business Committee; Jeff Garrett, Bookends & Beginnings; Jonathan Williams-Kinsel, City of Evanston

Presiding Member: Lisa Degliantoni, Co-Chair

### Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, Co-Chairman Lisa Degliantoni called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

### AMENDING OF AGENDA

Motion made by Mr. Allen for Agenda to include 5.d. Noyes Tenants, and 6.d. Knockout Items.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of date of previous meeting

Minutes from November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting moved to be approved by Ms. Bass, seconded by Ms. Axelrod. Passed, with abstentions from Ms. Berkeley and Ms. Stein.

Minutes from January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting moved to be approved by Ms. Bass, seconded by Ms. Joy. Passed, with abstention from Ms. Cohen.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Feedback from Business Community:** Ms. Adams from Creative Coworking, a shared office on Davis, shared that her business displays artwork. She expressed interest in there being a coordinated effort for businesses to do a First Friday style event monthly, stating this would have to be collaborative, cannot do as a sole business. Creative Coworking hosts a wine & art night two nights a month.

Mr. Martens from Alley Gallery shared that they have musical events occasionally, would like to see further collaboration.

Ms. Coakley from Downtown Evanston (DE) stated that DE has the capacity to organize around arts and business, but does not have an ear for artists. DE is geographically bound to downtown business district. Ms. Coakley expressed she would like to do more events downtown.

Mr. Garret from Bookends and Beginnings, located in the alley near Alley Gallery, shared that they found that painting footsteps, and other public art mural projects, down the alley has brought further attention to the businesses. Mr Garret can see the benefit in public art and placemaking efforts in the area.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Staff Report:** Ms. Lasik reported that the Fund Grant received 39 entries, triple last year's numbers. Ms. Lasik is looking to form review panels presently, expressed the need for 4 EAC members. She explained that the public is allowed to panels, and the panel allowed to ask questions; she described the panel review process.

Ms. Lasik announced that Evanston has won the bid for the One State for the Arts conference this fall.

72 people attended the most recent Art After Hours, hosted at Sidetracked Studio. Ms. Lasik Announced the WeLoveEvanston contest and promoted voting.

Ms. Lasik is working with Catherine Hurley in Sustainability on bike tours.

**Arts and Business Committee:** Ms. Rotheiser reported on the meeting that morning, mostly focused on leadership award. She reported the committee had decided to honor two businesses, one large, one small. The committee voted on a design for the decals for previous award recipients. A&B attended the merchant's districts' meeting to better collaboration. She reported the Backstage Evanston meeting would next week. Ms. Rotheiser announced that she would be stepping down as Chair, and that Art Under Glass is moving ahead.

## **REPORTS OF Ad Hoc Special Committees**

**Winter HeARth Special Committee:** Ms. Coakley reported that the first HeARTh event, SplatterDance would happen on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, partnering with Downtown Evanston and Northwestern Dance Marathon.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Back Stage Evanston:** Ms. Rotheiser reported the meeting would occur next week.

**Arts Council Funding Request Procedure:** Ms. Joy made a motion that the discretionary funding procedure be passed with amendment that the funded parties report back about use of funds. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. All approved.

**Public Art Festival Guidelines:** Mr. Reyes suggested that this be part of the public comment section for an upcoming meeting. Ms. Bass commented that Big Fork festival was too loud, and suggested that ordinances should address sound ordinance as well. She also recommended that the Council get responses from artist participants.

**Zoning Ordinance Work:** No discussion.

**Permanent vs. Ad Hoc Committees:** Public Art: no discussion. Noyes Tenant Association: Ms. Berkeley and Mr. Allen volunteered to be in communication with the NTA on a situational basis. Tenant membership came to discussion on how involved the EAC should be in figuring out how to get large-scale tenants into the building. It was suggested that we draft a recommendation form for how the EAC communicates their intentions for use of space. Lisa will start the document.

**Work Plan:** Retreat scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Art:** For the business regarding finances with Michael Montenegro and the Green Bay Mural, the co-chairs will draft a letter.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ETHS Pippin Proposal:** Mr. Sollers and Mr. Gehl expressed that Pippin will be an effort to bring more students from other arts and activity forms into the experience of the stage at ETHS. Actor's Gym is also involved in the production. Pippin will move toward including the athletic students as well. Additional funding needed due to necessary partnership and added hours. The typical budget is around \$60,000, which will be used up quickly between costumes, rights, etc. Ms. Berkeley spoke favorably, stating that this will be a very high quality show, and get many kids involved. Mr. Gehl asked that the Council consider it, and consider how much the Council would be willing to give. Mr., de los Reyes noted that Council has \$10,000 in discretionary funds, while ETHS is asking for \$11,500 – \$13,500. Mr. Allen asked about increasing revenue. Mr. de los Reyes commented that he would rather the public funds go to organizations that would otherwise not have access to public fund.

Discussion occurred. Ms. Lasik spoke in favor due to its outreach to student groups usually unincorporated. Ms. Degliantoni expressed that it would be good to put funding toward this event because it leads to further partnership in the arts. Ms. Lasik mentioned that she has been pushing for partnerships. Ms. Berkeley asked if this support would be returned to get more High School work out into the community. Mr. Gehl believes that past trend of non-partnership is waning and that conversation toward partnership has momentum. Ms. Joy believes that collaboration with the HS would be good, however believes the actual funding amount should be up for discussion.

Motion: Ms. Berkeley moved that EAC devote part of its discretionary funds toward ETHS Pippin. Amount TBD at the March meeting. Ms. Cohen seconded the motion. Council voted: Nan abstained, Sergio opposed, all other approved.

**Human Rights Commission Contest:** Mr. Williams-Kinsel reported on programs for diversity inclusion from the HRC. The HRC wants to run an exhibit from this program on diversity and inclusion with student's artwork, and would like to collaborate with the EAC to work through some of the technical artistic elements, particularly working in the elementary schools. Program would occur during the school day. Ms. Degliantoni recommended that the project happen at the high school level. Ms. Stein, as part of D65, will consider where this can fit in. Ms. Degliantoni, Ms. Stein, and Ms. Joy offered to be part of the initial planning.

**Funding for Noyes Gallery February Exhibit:** Ms. Lasik proposed on behalf of Harvey Pranian to fund the February show at Noyes by Javoid Simmons. Mr. Pranian incurred personal costs for the installation. Ms. Lasik asked if the EAC would cover personal costs as well granting an honorarium for curatorial work. There were major issues raised about the retro-activity of the funding, and setting a precedent for funding future shows. An application will be developed for curation of Noyes to equalize the playing field for curators. By consensus, the EAC agreed to let Lasik deal with it, from her available funds, not the disc funds.

**Arts and Life:** Mr. Williams-Kinsel inquired if the EAC would be interested in collaborating with the Arts and Life magazine for advertisement and content space, taking over creative control from Econ Development. Lisa will be point person and talk with Dino about this.

Next meeting will be the Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was moved to adjourn by Ms. Stein and seconded by Ms. Joy. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 9:00 PM, February 10, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jason Brown  
Program Assistant  
Cultural Arts Division