



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Arts Council
Tuesday, March 10, 2014
6:34 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; Helen Axelrood; Gay Riseborough; Nan Stein; Anne Berkeley; Judith Cohen;

Members Absent: Manuel Aleman; Dino Robinson; Fran Joy; Greg Allen;

Staff Present: Jason Brown, Program Assistant

Public Present: Heather McClelland, Evanston In-School Music Association (EISMA); Donovan Mixon, Jazz-Play Studio; Diana Anton; Dickelle Fonda, West Village Business Association; Jack Weiss, Design Evanston; Laura Saviano, Friends of the Arts Fund

Presiding Member: Lisa Degliantoni, Co-Chair

Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, Co-Chairman Lisa Degliantoni called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. With no quorum, the Council heard public comment regarding Arts and Business surveys. Quorum was called at 7:05 pm.

AMENDING OF AGENDA

Motion made by Ms. Riseborough to start the meeting with item 2.b. Ms. Berkeley seconded. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of date of previous meeting

With no quorum until later in the meeting, minutes were not approved. This item will be moved to next months' agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Feedback from Arts Community: Ms. McClelland from EISMA, a non-profit organization that brings concerts and professional musicians into schools in Evanston, reaching 7500 students annually. She expressed strong preference for collaborating efforts in the arts, approaching those organizations that are engaged in the arts, but not overburdened. She proposed that awards should be increased so many organizations are receiving so as to encourage participation.

Mr. Mixon reported on his arts and business activities at Jazz Place Studio, a small collaborative effort here in Evanston.

Ms. Fonda from the West End Business Alliance spoke in favor of Mr. Mixon's work and his to-be-discussed proposal of bringing an international jazz group to Evanston. She encouraged the Council to strongly consider his proposal as he provides very high quality work through Studio 900.

Jack Weiss' Community Public Art Fund Request: Mr. Weiss, president of Design Evanston, and past recipient of the Mayor's Award for the Arts, proposed a project for the Davis Street

station plaza. The proposed project is a mural based on the original logo of the North Shore electric line, abstracted in the style of Norman Ives. He has partnered with the Friends of the Arts Fund, who has promised to fund the remaining balance of the project, one he has obtained requested funds. The total estimated cost of the project is \$16,000, and Mr. Weiss requested \$4,500 from the Community Public Art Fund.

Ms. Riseborough spoke favorably of the proposal, stating that it was thorough and well-designed. Ms. Saviano from Friends of the Arts stated that there has already been preliminary discussions with the authorities regarding use of space on the Metra and/or CTA walls.

The Council seemed generally in favor of the idea, however because there was no time constraint, decided to hold off on the funding decision until the April meeting.

Ms. Degliantoni motioned to move to item 5a on the Agenda, to hear from Donovan Mixon. Seconded by Ms. Riseborough. All approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Donovan Mixon: International Jazz Concert: Mr. Mixon is seeking funding for publicity and performance of international jazz group, *Offlines* for the weekend of May 21st. The group is in need a venue with a piano, 200-400 seats, and he would like to host a workshop afterwards. Costs of transportation are mitigated by Israeli consulate, and Mr. Mixon will provide air and ground transportation and hospitality.

The Council made some suggestions on venues.

Mr. Mixon stated that he is am coming to Evanston, as opposed to Chicago, because this would be a cultural program, and that way it stands out from other concerts.

Discussion with the Council occurred. Ms. Riseborough stated that this would be very important for Evanston, because of Donovan's international jazz experience. She would like to the Council to provide and pay a venue, would like to help with the promotion. Ms. Cohen asked if he had reached out to the Jewish community to provide a venue to pitch for a "multicultural" event. Ms. Degliantoni expressed that the timing seems to be the issue. Ms. Riseborough offered to reach out to the Unitarian church. Ms. Cohen will reach out to the Reconstuctionist Synagogue.

Suggestion from the public to host at ETHS, with Jazz club.

Mr. de los Reyes expressed that he would like to know the full scope of the project before voting. Ms. Degliantoni stated that it better to obtain a venue first. Ms. Riseborough and Ms. Cohen will reach out to venues.

Once the venue is obtained, then the Arts Council will reconvene in the next 2 weeks.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Staff Report: Mr. Brown reported on the recent Winter HeARTh Event, Flight for Peace, where residents folded 600 origami cranes. He reported that he installation would soon be hanging at the Evanston Ecology Center.

Mr. Brown reported that Jennifer Lasik is in the midst of forming a hosting committee for the One State for the Arts Conference coming to Evanston this fall. Arts Council members were encouraged to get involved.

There was no discussion concerning the Howard Street Focus Group.

Arts and Business Committee: Ms. Degliantoni reported that she has been conversing with the Leadership Evanston cohort about the arts and business community in Evanston. Leadership Evanston is looking to research how other cities have organized around arts and business. Leadership Evanston will present in the May meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Noyes Cultural Arts Center work: Ms. Berkeley and Ms. Riseborough presented updated plans for landscape, hardscape, and general exterior work at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. Ms. Berkeley reported that she and Ms. Riseborough have been working with the Tenants Association to discuss how to improve the building. Greenwise Organics, a landscaping firm that works on pro-bono projects for non-profits, created a rendering of plans for how the building could be renovated. Project would integrate new hardscape design as well as sculptural elements. Ms. Berkeley stated that the plans were presented to Christina Ferraro in Parks and Recreation and the project seems feasible long term. While there are no direct step presently, Ms. Berkeley hopes that the Council will consider in its budget this renovation in the future.

Open Studios Evanston: Ms. Degliantoni reported that Open Studios Evanston will be happening June 6th. She reported that it Open Studios has garnered so much attention that the Civic Visitor's Bureau has adopted it as a promotion. She is looking forward to new participants and an engaging public art installation on the beach.

Work Plan and Tasks: Council members were reminded to review the 3 Core Goals that the Council decided upon at their work retreat: Advocacy, Business and Economic Development, and Collaboration. Co-chairs will work with City staff to formulate further work plan tasks and documents.

ETHS Pippin Proposal: Considering the proposal from last meeting, the Council members moved to approve supporting the project monetarily. Mr. de los Reyes moved to support the ETHS Pippin production with \$1000.00 from the Arts Council's discretionary funds. Carole seconded the motion. All in favor.

Discussion occurred following the decision about formulating criteria for the funds. Council members discussed the different between funds in the budget: public art fund, Grant fund, and discretionary fund (also known as Community Support Fund). Ms. Berkeley expressed that for the discretionary funds should be used only when there appears to be lift off-ability for the project. Ms. Berkeley, Ms. Degliantoni, and Jennifer will discuss further development of criteria.

NEW BUSINESS

(Moved and discussed earlier in meeting. See above.)

Next meeting will be the Tuesday, April 14th, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was moved to adjourn by Mr. de los Reyes and seconded by Ms. Cohen. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:50 PM, March 10, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Brown
Program Assistant
Cultural Arts Division