



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Arts Council

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street Studio 106

Members Present: Heidi Bloom, co-chair; Greg Allen; Helen Axelrood; Carol Bass; Lisa Degliantoni; Stephen Guenther; Fran Joy; Rebeca Mendoza; Dino Robinson

Members Absent: Manuel Aleman; Anne Berkeley, co-chair; Rina Gitlin; Nan Stein; Jacqueline Williams.

Others Present: Jorie Goins, Northwestern student

Staff Present: Jeff Cory, Cultural Arts/Arts Council Director; Jill Silverman, Secretary II Cultural Arts Division

Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, co-chair Heidi Bloom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of date of previous meeting

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the April 16, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts & Business – no report. Mr. Cory asked Arts Council members to provide leads on landlords who may be interested in displaying art in vacant storefront windows, as part of the Art Under Glass program.

Community Relations – Mr. Allen reported committee members reviewed and fine-tuned a list of questions concerning the Piven Theatre Workshop's expansion proposal at Noyes. The questions were submitted to City Council. A Cultural Connections lunch event is scheduled at Howard Street Gallery at noon on Wednesday, May 29. Speakers will include Tony Arriola of Howard Street Gallery and Evanston artist Indira Johnson. Ms. Bloom announced that the June Community Relations meeting would be moved to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12. Upgrades to the evanstonartsbuzz.com site will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Liaisons – Ms. Degliantoni has created a file on Google Docs that she will use to provide updates on projects reported through the liaison program.

STAFF REPORTS

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Art Committee – Mr. Cory reported that the Public Art Committee has recommended approval of a proposed mural by the **Youth Job Center**, with the recommendation that the mural design be revised by expanding the width of the leaves and the roots to reduce the amount of white space. Mr. Robinson expressed concern about the Public Art Committee modifying artist designs for mural projects, and

Approved

suggested that the Public Art Committee consider developing guidelines regarding the extent of the committee's input on mural design. Some Arts Council members expressed concern over making changes to artist-submitted designs. Mr. Cory mentioned that the Public Art Committee's recommended changes on the YJC mural are non-binding. There was a brief conversation on the difference between censorship and constructive criticism. Members asked about a Dajae Coleman memorial mural that had been discussed for a wall on Church St. near Veolia. Mr. Cory said the question of ownership of the wall has still not been resolved. Mr. Cory reported that the Public Art Committee recommended approval of a mural planned for an east-facing window of the new **Farmhouse** restaurant that will be opening on Orrington Ave. this summer. The City's Sign Committee requested the Public Art Committee's input on this project. Mr. Cory reported the **Chicago Sculpture International** organization has inquired about a temporary sculpture display in Evanston. The Public Art Committee will develop a proposal for City Council. Ms. Bloom reported the **evanstARTs** working group has invited an expanded group to participate in a *Scenario-Thinking Session* at the Mather Lifeways on June 4. Several Arts Council members expressed that they have not been invited; Ms. Bloom said she was unsure why all Arts Council members were not invited. Ms. Degliantoni said she was invited and will try to attend. Ms. Bloom noted the evanstARTs final written report is nearing completion. Presentation of the Arts Council's **Two-year Work Plan** to the Rules Committee has been postponed once again, until the fall. Ms. Bloom reported on discussion of the **Piven proposal** at the May 2 Human Services Committee meeting. The City Manager is seeking compromise by both parties. Mr. Allen said Mr. Bobkiewicz is asking Piven to put one of their rooms in the basement to free up a space on the first or second floor. An initial plan to displace the Evanston Children's Choir and Maggie Weiss has been scrapped. The City is developing new parameters for which tenants might be displaced, with Evanston residency playing a significant role. The Noyes Tenants Association is attempting to develop a plan that would enable all current tenants to remain in the building.

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising – Ms. Bloom asked Ms. Degliantoni to attend the next Community Relations Committee meeting, at which this topic will be discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Cory reported on the recent Midwest Urban District Forum that was hosted by Downtown Evanston. Discussions focused on utilizing the arts as a catalyst for spurring economic development. Two new exhibits opened at Noyes last Sunday, *Fragments of Memory* on the first floor, and the District 65/202 student art exhibit *Seed by Seed* on the second floor. A sign-up sheet listing volunteer opportunities at summer festivals and events was distributed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services