



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Arts Council

Tuesday, July 16, 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; Carole Bass; Lisa Degliantoni; Stephen Guenther; Fran Joy; Rebeca Mendoza; Dino Robinson.

Members Absent: Nan Stein, Jacqueline Williams.

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

Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, Arts Council member Mr. Robinson, acting as chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 18 meeting. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts & Business – Ms. Penny Rotheiser reported that Backstage Evanston will take place from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, September 29 at the Barber Theatre on the NU campus. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Mr. Rives Collins will return in the role of emcee. A promotional bookmark has been created and a large postcard will be printed soon. The theme of this year's event is the History of Performing Arts in Evanston, as a tie-in to the Evanston 150th anniversary events. Ms. Rotheiser reported that Ms. Joy and Ms. Allison are working on Art Under Glass, but it has been difficult finding new spaces. After Backstage Evanston the committee will concentrate on building their relationships with local businesses.

Community Relations – Ms. Joy reported that the committee discussed the latest version of the Piven proposal at length at the July meeting. Ms. Bass distributed a revised version of an analysis of the proposal that was sent to City Council a few weeks ago. The Arts Council has not received definitive answers to the most recently identified set of questions and concerns about the proposal. Ms. Bass pointed out that the Piven proposal has numerous math errors and contradictions. She does not support the current proposal and recommends City Council look at other alternatives. Mr. Allen commended Ms. Bass for her thorough review of the Piven proposal and concurs with her statement. Ms. Axelrod expressed concern for the park adjacent to the building; she learned that it may be affected by the expansion of Piven Theatre. She suggested that the Arts Council send a letter to City Council stating that the Arts

Council is not comfortable recommending the current proposal; members of the Arts Council could choose whether to sign the letter or not.

Ms. Berkeley said she feels that Ms. Bass' document does take a stand yet remains supportive to all artists. Mr. Allen made a motion that the Arts Council submit a letter to the City Council stating that the Arts Council is not in favor of the proposal as written and supporting the efforts of aldermen to develop an alternative plan. Ms. Axelrood seconded the motion. Mr. Robinson suggests adding the following language from the Evanston City Code, to emphasize the Arts Council's intended role:

“The Arts Council shall encourage the involvement of citizens in artistic expression and aid in the coordination of private and public artistic and cultural endeavors in order to increase public support of such activities (Section 2-1-2).”

Ms. Mendoza agreed that this would serve as a reminder of why the Mayor appointed them. She said she finds it difficult to serve on the Arts Council given the current series of events. There was further discussion on what role the Arts Council should play in the process of evaluation of the Piven proposal. A voice vote was taken and Mr. Allen's motion carried unanimously (10-0). Mr. Allen asked that Ms. Bloom assist with writing the letter.

Ms. Joy reported on prospects for the next Cultural Connection Lunch event. Ms. Lea Pinsky has offered to co-host an event at Studio 900 which recently participated in the Art Hop event around Greenleaf Street and Wesley Avenue. Mr. Tim Rhoze, artistic director of Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, has been approached as a possible co-host. Perspective Gallery and the Music Institute of Chicago's new space in the old Marshall Field's building were mentioned as other possible sites for future lunch events.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Axelrood spoke to ETHS fine arts teacher Ms. Pam Baumgartner about displaying student artwork at the Civic Center. Ms. Baumgartner agreed to work with Ms. Silverman on the project. Ms. Silverman said she will contact Ms. Baumgartner.

Ms. Berkeley opened up discussion on how to communicate liaison reports more efficiently. She asked for a brief report ahead of the meeting and to remind organizations that special events can be listed on evanstonartbuzz.com. Mr. Robinson said he views the role of the liaisons as working to gain an understanding of the goals and challenges that each organization faces, rather than simply generating event calendar listings. He said he seeks to provide suggestions on how to move forward, noting that not all organizations need the same thing.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Berkeley proposed inviting City staff to Arts Council meetings for in-service presentations on topics of interest. She has already reached out to the City's Finance and Public Relations departments. Ms. Degliantoni said she would like to learn more about the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Mr. Guenther asked for background about the history of the Arts Council.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Silverman asked for volunteers to staff the Arts Council table at summer events.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services