



MEETING MINUTES

Evanston Arts Council
Tuesday, August 20, 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; Helen Axelrood; Carole Bass; Fran Joy; Rebeca Mendoza.

Members Absent: Greg Allen, Lisa Degliantoni, Stephen Guenther, Dino Robinson, Nan Stein, Jacqueline Williams.

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

Declaration of Quorum

Due to a last minute cancellation there was no quorum. The Arts Council agreed to meet for the purpose of sharing information.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of June & July 2013

No quorum present so approval of the meeting minutes postponed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Evanston resident Ms. Linda Matsumoto said she has attended and enjoyed the festivals this year and for many years in the past. She is interested in finding out more about arts opportunities in Evanston for herself and her husband, artist Mark Paternostro.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Cory said that both the lakefront arts festivals and the summer Starlight Concert Series were well-received with very strong attendance. The festivals in particular attracted the largest crowds we have seen in many years. Movies in the Parks continue on Wednesdays and Saturdays through September 7. Mr. Cory reported that an asbestos and lead paint report that was commissioned by the City for the Noyes Cultural Arts Center shows that the building is presently in safe condition. The results of the report were better than expected. A tenants meeting will be held to review the report and provide an opportunity for questions. Ms. Mendoza thanked Mr. Cory and the Cultural Arts Division staff for their hard work on the festivals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts & Business – Mr. Cory reported that a flyer distribution blitz for Backstage Evanston is scheduled for the week of September 9. The Cultural Arts Division is short on interns that week due to Northwestern being on break, so any volunteers to help with distribution would be appreciated. The program book ad deadline has been extended to August 31. Rail car ads for the event will be displayed on the CTA Purple Line, and the postcard will be inserted in the Evanston RoundTable in all three zones, covering the entire City. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the show, and can be purchased online

via Brown Paper Tickets or through the Cultural Arts Division office at Noyes. Net revenue from the event is divided among the participating performing arts groups.

Community Relations – Ms. Bloom reported that the next Cultural Connections Lunch will take place from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1 at Space 900, 1042 Wesley Avenue. Artists Ms. Lea Pinsky, Ms. Alice George, and Ms. Jill King will be presenters. The target date for the event invitation is September 10. The committee discussed becoming more involved with the Noyes Cultural Arts Center and its tenants. There was a brief discussion about the student art work at the Civic Center. Ms. Bloom said that the Community Relations Committee will discuss finding a representative from District 202 to work with in the future.

evanstARTs – no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Berkeley said she will begin inviting City representatives to give informational presentations about a variety of facets of government starting with next month's Arts Council meeting. Ms. Bloom read an email from City Manager Mr. Wally Bobkiewicz, informing the Arts Council that he plans to ask the Human Services Committee on September 16 to assign the Noyes Tenants Association and the Arts Council to work jointly on developing new tenant criteria for the Noyes building, for presentation to City Council in early 2014. In his email Mr. Bobkiewicz indicated the need to increase vitality at Noyes. Ms. Berkeley emphasized the need to proceed in a respectful manner regarding how this may impact current tenants. Mr. Cory said the tenants have met and collectively expressed concern over the proposed length of the criteria review, which precludes tenant movement or the filling of any current vacancies at Noyes until early 2014. The tenants expressed that the continued uncertainty hovering over Noyes is making it difficult to manage their organizations and plan for the upcoming season. Four tenants were on six-month leases that expired on July 1, and Piven Theatre Workshop does not currently have a lease for its studio spaces at Noyes. Ms. Bloom encouraged Arts Council members to attend the September 16 Human Services Committee meeting. The Arts Council co-chairs will schedule a meeting with Noyes Tenant Association representatives to discuss building issues prior to the September 16 meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Berkeley touched upon some highlights of the monthly arts organization liaison reports. She reminded members to remain in close contact with their assigned community organizations and thanked everyone for their commitment. Report is attached.

Ms. Berkeley reported that she met with Ms. Carolyn Dellutri of Downtown Evanston, who would like to collaborate with the Arts Council on creating an art fair or event in downtown Evanston.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services