



EVANSTON ARTS COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
6:30pm
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Room 2402

MINUTES

Members Present: Beth Adler, Jamal Ahmad, Judith Cohen, Lisa Corrin, Susan Davis Friedman, Indira Johnson, Gay Riseborough, Hope Washinushi, Toby Sachs, William Jones

Members Absent: Angela Williams

Staff Present: Paulina Martinez, Susie Hall, Lara Biggs, Stefanie Levine

Other: Andy Tinucci, Margaret Gergen, Paul Barker

1. **CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

With a quorum present Co-Chair Susan Davis Friedman called meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** none.

3. **APPROVE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES:** Ms. Davis Friedman reviewed meeting minutes from February with the Council. **Gay Riseborough moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2019; seconded by Judith Cohen. Vote called and taken. Hope Washinushi abstained. Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **COMMUNITY ARTS FUNDING** (note to change heading from Neighborhood Arts Funding to Community Arts Funding).

- a. **Evanston Symphony Orchestra's Young Person's Concert:** Margaret Gergen from the Evanston Symphony Orchestra spoke about the Youth Concert on May 19th, and its request for \$600 to cover copyright costs. This will be the second year for the concert. The program is broken up into two parts: 1) rehearsals and curriculum for District 65 middle school students; and 2) dress rehearsal and performance. The Evanston Symphony Orchestra will

perform a few songs by themselves and then invite the 120+ students to the stage to perform together.

Beth Adler, Co-Chair, asked the make-up of the students involved in the program as the Arts Council tries to include diversity and inclusion in its work. Ms. Gergen didn't know the exact percentages but said that it reflects the diversity of the school (as to race/income/etc).

The Arts Council requested the orchestra provide details on diversity, a copy of last year's program, and invitations to the Arts Council members. **Motion to approve funding was made by Lisa Corrin, and seconded by William (BJ) Jones. Toby Sachs abstained from voting. Approved unanimously.**

b. Terran Doehrer and Jutta Distler – Ms. Davis Friedman tabled the request for funding to another meeting.

5. ROBERT CROWN PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION:

Lara Biggs, Capital Planning & Engineering Bureau Chief for the City of Evanston, introduced Andy Tinucci and Stefanie Levine. Ms. Biggs mentioned the two remaining artists' proposals: 1) Blessing Hancock's design; and 2) the terrazzo flooring design. The flooring became too difficult to work with, so that leaves Ms. Hancock's design for discussion. Ms. Biggs noted that she talked with Ms. Hancock during the RFP process and her vision to incorporate the community.

Ms. Hancock was connected to the meeting via web/phone. Ms. Adler noted that the Arts Council originally went with another artist that couldn't deliver within the budget. The Council is looking for a sculpture that would light up the building, which Ms. Hancock's could do, based on her portfolio. However, the Council liked the sculpture proposed by Ms. Hancock, but didn't love it.

Ms. Hancock explained that she created this design as she wanted to do something sports related. The elliptical rings made her think of sports activities, and the circles together show teamwork and support. She also wanted to make the piece interactive for people to climb in and around. When asked about the community engagement aspect of her work, she said she would be happy to look at ways to attend sports events, create an online platform for submissions, or be on site at art festivals to ask for input.

Ms. Hancock explained that her design is made out of metal; designs are painted on and cut into the metal. Light will be reflected out of these cuts. Ms. Adler asked if Ms. Hancock is open to reimagining her design. Ms. Hancock said she is happy to work with the City on a new design, but would first need to get a contract.

Andy Tinucci stated that when the Arts Council decided it was okay for an art piece to go outside the building it extended the timeframe on when it would need to be completed. The outside area for the new complex will not be done until spring 2020.

Ms. Adler asked about her “Line and Sky” design that is in the process of being installed for another community. This design cost \$1M but is a full city block long. Ms. Adler said that she likes how the design sets a sense of a stage. Mr. Jones added that it would be nice to have an interactive quality or a performative experience. He liked the LED lights and how they could possibly change colors to connect with activities in the community. Toby Sachs thanked Ms. Hancock for being so open, and added they can build on the lights and shadow effects and try to reflect on to the building. Call with Ms. Hancock ended.

Ms. Biggs asked the Arts Council how they want to proceed. Many Council members say they like Ms. Hancock’s work and that they should proceed with her rather than start the process over. Ms. Biggs explained that if they went back out for new ideas, they would only post to the City’s website (not in a publication like they did with the RFP) and ask people to spread the word/email directly to interested artists.

Ms. Adler moved to approve proceeding with a contract for a new design with Blessing Hancock for the Robert Crown Public Art Installation. Ms. Corrin seconded the Motion. Ms. Adler abstained from the vote. Approved unanimously.

8. Public Art Subcommittee Report

a. Maple Avenue Parking Garage Mural Design by Paul Barker: Paul Barker is present to speak about the unanimous decision to move forward with the Piano Keys mural on the west side of the Maple Garage (visible from the train). **Ms. Riseborough moved to approve the piano keys mural/design by Paul Barker on the Maple Avenue Parking Garage. Mr. Sachs seconded. Unanimously approved.**

Other Public Art Reports:

Ms. Riseborough discussed the area of 824-828 Noyes (garage near D&D on Noyes St). Paulina Martinez has made contact with the CTA but has not heard back.

Ms. Riseborough also mentioned the use of \$500 from the maintenance fund (unanimous recommendation of the committee) for work near Fire Station #5.

7. Chairs Report

Ms. Davis Friedman noted that the Grant Workshop on February 24 had a great turnout and hopes to receive a number of applications. The deadline to submit is April 1. Grants will be reviewed by 2 panels (with 4 members – 2 from the Arts Council, each). Ms. Davis Friedman and Ms. Adler will lead the two panels. The date to review the applications is May 4.

Ms. Adler mentioned that the Arts Council Retreat this past Sunday was very productive. The Council was able to decide on three goals: 1) advising; 2) advocating; 3) granting. After coming up with a final draft and more substantive language, this will be brought to the Human Services committee and then to the City Council sometime in

June for final approval. Ms. Adler added that she would like to form small groups to complete this task. Ms. Davis Friedman also suggest coming up with an Action Plan.

9. Staff Report : Ms. Martinez has no report.

10. Announcements: Ms. Adler announced that Steven Demorest has health issues and is resigning from the Arts Council. She asked that everyone spread the word for interested people to apply, particularly those with music or dance backgrounds.

11. Adjournment: Ms. Riseborough moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Corrin. The meeting is adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Susie Hall