Evanston Arts Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, 2402

Member Present: Indira Johnson, Chantal Healey, Dr. Jamal Ahmad, Judith Cohen, Toby Sachs (Vice-chair), William Jones, Gay Riseborough, Maasai Amewa, James Deeb.

Members Absent: Beth Adler (Chair), Angela Williams, Lisa Corrin

Staff Present: Paulina Martinez (Assistant to the City Manager)

1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum
The meeting 6:33 p.m.

2. Public Comment

3. Approve Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2019
Ms. Riseborough asked to add the following comments under item 4B:
“Mr. Riseborough also objected to losing the non-Arts Council members that currently serve in the Public Arts Subcommittee.”

Mr. Deeb made the following amendments:
“Page 1, Public Comments, second sentence: add the words "with an" between "kicked-off" & "event."
Page 2, Consideration, first paragraph, second sentence: Initial cap Raman.
Page 2, Consideration, seventh paragraph (in bold): It would probably be more accurate to say "Ms. Johnson abstained."
Page 3, Discussion, third paragraph, first sentence: change "Hancok" to "Hancock."
Page 3, Discussion, seventh paragraph, first sentence: add the word "apply" between "tax" & "to."

Minutes approved as amended. 8-0-1. Dr. Ahmad abstained.

4. Consideration
   A. Cultural Fund Program Guidelines Update
Mr. Sachs reviewed the proposed changes to the guidelines and application:
   - Change the “Diversity in the Arts Goals” to:
40  “Equity in the Arts” - The applicant organization must demonstrate their efforts to realize the Equity in the Arts Goals set by the Arts Council. The goals are to:
41  1. Promote equity and inclusion throughout the arts in Evanston, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, age, ability or sexual orientation.
42  2. Ensure that the cultural arts programs the Council supports reflect the diversity of the Evanston community.
43  3. Make the arts accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.
44
45  - Change Question #3 in the application to:
46  o “What steps are you taking to ensure that your programs and activities are diverse, equitable and inclusive for all community members? In what way do the activities of your organization enhance the social and cultural health of Evanston? How do you collaborate with community partners to reach your goals?”

49  Mr. Sachs also conveyed Ms. Adler’s suggested changes:
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51  p8 Purpose of Cultural Fund
52  ....to make available the extraordinary assets of Evanston's arts community to all of Evanston's citizens (I would like to add something here about financial access and non-discrimination, but you get the idea) The current text reads to establish Evanston "as an arts hub and destination" which speaks to the economic benefit and I am not sure that is our goal. As I understand it it is for Evanston artists to develop programs and events that benefit all Evanstonians.

54  p9 Categorize
55  General Support to Organizations, not just Grants to Organizations

58  Mr. Deeb moved to approve the proposed changes. Ms. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

63  5. Discussion
64  A. Cultural Fund Program Panel – Judges Search
65  Mr. Sachs asked the Arts Council members to volunteer for the Cultural Fund Grant panel and to reach out to others who might be interested. Those interested should email Mr. Sachs before the next meeting.

69  B. Public Art Vacancies
70  Mr. Sachs invited those interested in joining the Public Art Subcommittee. There are currently two vacancies.
Ms. Riseborough added that those interested should email her directly.

C. Future Public Art Commissions Assessment
This item was tabled for a later meeting.

6. Communications
A. Chairs Report
Mr. Sachs discussed the possible dates for the Arts Council retreat. He directed Ms. Martínez to send a Doodle Poll with possible dates starting in mid-April through early May.

B. Public Art Subcommittee Report
Ms. Riseborough reported the subcommittee did not meet in January because it is waiting on updates of ongoing projects.
Ms. Riseborough also reported that Stitch is still waiting for the materials to arrive and be repaired. Search & Effect is being inspected in the coming weeks. The 828 Noyes project continues waiting to hear back from CTA regarding the right of way permit.

C. Equity in the Arts Working Group Report
Mr. Sachs reported the working group will meet on January 15 in the morning.

D. Staff Report
No report.

7. Announcements
Mr. Amewa is participating in the Foster School play at Mudlark.
Mr. Jones is working on a new play.
Ms. Johnson will host a kick-off event for “The Year of Kindness” on January 26.

8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.