

# City of Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board

## Minutes for March 5, 2019

Meeting to be held at 7:00 pm in room 112 of the Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road, 301-397-2208

**Board Members Present:** Glenn Griffiths, Oliver Gaycken, Kristin Stenson, Shaymar Higgs, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Tatiana Ausema, Ronald Lonicki,

**Board Members Absent with prior notice:** Anna Socrates

**Board Members Absent without prior notice:** Efrat Levner, John Drago

**Council Liaison Absent with prior notice:** Judith Davis, Mayor Pro Tem

**Staff Liaison:** Nicole DeWald

**Other Attendees:** Susan Harris, Eli (Elihu) Zimet, Winn Britt, Meg Haney, Julie Winters, and Scott Bringen

1. Verification of quorum and call to order

- Quorum and call to order at 7:04pm

2. Approval of the agenda

- Approved

3. Amendment/ approval of minutes of the February 5, 2019 meeting

- Postponed item until next meeting

4. 7:15 pm -8:00 pm Discussion with Recognition Groups seeking city funding for the FY20. 10 minute appointments with 3 groups (GAC, FONDCA, and the Greenbelt Concert band), followed by review and guidance to Kristin in preparation for the Grant Review Panel Meeting

- 7:07-7:24: Greenbelt Concert Band represented by general manager, Eli (Elihu) Zimet. The group finally has 5013C status. They are not asking for membership dues but requesting members to make donations. This year they received 1k in general donations from their members. They also received more outside donations than in past years. Expenditures increased this year. They spent \$1,800 to refresh music library. There has also been a membership an increase of 5. 15-18% of the membership are Greenbelt residence. They also now have a facebook page and website. Same number of performances. At most events they ask for funding.
- 7:24-7:38: Friends Of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA) represented by President Meg Haney and board member Julie Winters. They are on schedule for this year's festival dates. They have plans to expand the Blues Festival to attract a larger audience. Last year there was a petting zoo and music lessons. FONDCA wants to pay the instructors this year. They also want to pay for more well-known musicians to play at the Blues and Jazz festivals. The last couple of art exhibits have been really well attended. Chrissy Wilkin, the Arts Coordinator has been doing a fantastic job. The challenges they are currently facing are fundraising. They did received a Greenbelt Foundation Grant. Thinking of adding another board member to FONDCA.
- 7:50-8:20 Greenbelt Art Center (GAC) represented by President, Win Britt and general manager, Scott Bringen. Big shift in leadership John Gardener is the new treasurer, Winn is the President and Scott is the new general manager. In the past year, there have been shorter resident production because one of the productions canceled. They were able to still produce work 2 musicals, 1 family production. Capital Projects the

lobby has been refreshed: New carpeting, Painted the entire lobby, which is important for the gallery space within the lobby. It took about 2 months to complete the project. Increase in expenditures: Rent increased by 8%. Last season was extremely profitable so they reworked insurance to include volunteers. This year no profit and will eat the money they made last year. Lighting group is working out really well. They are now all up to code, the power and capacity is good. Sound issues with their neighbors have been worked out. Mold issues are dehumidifiers purchased, installed 2 industrial sized air purifiers purchased. All upholstery has been cleaned professionally. Also a professional mold company to test for mold. They are waiting to hear the results from the test. Past tests have shown nontoxic mold. Should the tests come back positive they will be using the rainy day funds towards fixing. The root causes is condensation. The co-op is doing the most that they can to fix the issue. Coop has put about 10 to 20k in fixing the issues in the past. GAC is addressing the issue the health and safety are important to the organization. Results should be coming back sometime this week. GAC still wants a Mural on the outside of the building. However, GAC needs to see what the damage is for the facilities clean up.

#### 5. Discussion of first-time Recognition Group application for The SPACE Presented Flyer.

The Space represented by founder Shaymar Higgs. The Space is applying to be a recognized group to access city resources specifically Greenbelt CARES and Public Works Recycling Department. There is a need for this service at The Space which services mostly residents that live in and near Greenbelt Station. As of March 5<sup>th</sup>, there have been 750 guest this year. The Space is working on establishing it's self as a benefit corporation. They want to prove multiple services to the Greenbelt community some current projects include: Free coffee & tea, poetry & spoken word event 2x a month, free clothes rack, gallery space, dancing, music, sewing, ect..

The space has plans to expand to a second space which will have 40,000 square feet. They will be partnering with UMD to establish a Greenbelt Teen Center.

#### 6. Brief status of planning for the spring AAB- sponsored arts mixer and amount of budget request for 2 events next fiscal year.

\$500.00 per event so \$1,000.00 annually. As a report. Mark to write a formal request to the city by the end of the week.

#### 7. Other business

- Susan Harris, on the recommendation of Judith Davis presented a new online arts directory found on greenbeltonline to the committee. The community website features artists and small business directory. The idea is to help make Greenbelt an arts hub. It is also a way of connecting artists and musicians together. The site will include a blog focused on featuring the musicians of Greenbelt. greenbeltonline will have an intern from the University of Maryland to help create the profiles.

-Next Meeting April 2, 2019 Tatiana cannot be at the next meeting.

#### 8. Adjournment: 8:49