

City of Greenbelt
Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for July 11, 2023
Meeting held at 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Members Present: Tatiana Ausema, Tom LeaMond, Vijay Parameshwaran, Kristin Stenson, Barbara Stevens

Members Absent with prior notice: John Drago, Oliver Gaycken, Shaymar Higgs

Others Present: J. Davis, Council Member; Mary Beth Flowers, Guest; Amanda Larsen, Visual Arts Coordinator

1. Call to order: Tom LeaMond called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. We had a quorum (4 members required).

2. Amendment/approval of the agenda: The agenda was changed to move discussion of marketing and grant writing to a future meeting and was approved as amended.

3. Amendment/approval of the June minutes (B. Stevens): The June minutes were amended as follows: delete two names. The minutes were approved as amended.

4. Resignation of Judy Parker (A. Larsen): Amanda reported that Judy Parker has resigned from the Arts Advisory Board.

5. Welcome Guest (T. LeaMond): We welcomed Mary Beth Flowers as a visiting guest. Mary Beth is a painter and crafts person with a background in art education. She painted the herb garden sign. She is observing tonight and it's too early for her to decide if she will join the Board. J. Davis noted that since Mary Beth has attended this meeting, she only needs to complete an application and be interviewed by City Council if she decides to join.

6. Marketing, grant-writing, resources for artists (K. Stenson): Kristin asked that this discussion be moved to a future meeting because she has not done the research needed for this topic.

7. Plan for October 1 Roosevelt Center Open Houses (V. Parameshwaran/B. Stevens): Vijay updated us on planning for the October Open Houses. He contacted Old Greenbelt Theatre, Greenbelt Arts Center and New Deal Café regarding their interest in participating. The event will not be the same as last year. This year will be open houses in conjunction with the artful afternoon. OGT, GAC and FONDCA (Friends of New Deal Café Arts) have said they will participate and are awaiting details from us. (The New Deal Café Board has not responded yet.) The OGT has time constraints and can only do the open house before 2:00 pm. The time we proposed for open houses is 1:00-4:00. We discussed the possibility of expanding the open houses to other businesses in the Roosevelt Center (e.g. Generous Joe's, CO-OP store, Cedars of Lebanon, etc.) given their history and display of local art. After extensive discussion of what that would entail (there are many businesses in the center), we decided not to expand, but focus on the three venues: OGT, GAC and New Deal Café. GAC and OGT did great on their open houses last year and we would like to see those models again. We also wondered if GATE could make a video of the Open Houses. Vijay and Barb will contact the three venues for specifics about their events this year, and report back to the AAB. The open houses may include:
-oral presentations about the history of the venue

- allowing people into the inner workings (backstage, projector room, etc.)
- artists in attendance to discuss their work (maybe an artist reception on that day)
- short films
- a presentation board with a history of the venue
- interaction with the public

The AAB via the recreation department will publicize the open houses. Amanda said she is preparing the fall recreation guide now and will place an announcement that there will be Open Houses at the three venues on October 1 (Tom LeaMond will get an OK from the New Deal Board chairman before the announcement is made.) The next deadline is the end of August for publicity at the Labor Day Festival which will include more details. The recreation department will also provide signs the day of the event and possibly helium balloons.

8. Round Robin: Tom noted there is a fund raiser for the Labor Day Festival on July 20 at the New Deal Café and urged us to attend and support the Festival.

J. Davis raised the topic of committee recruitment and attendance. The annual City Council stakeholder advisory board chair meeting will be on July 12 at 7:30 pm. Tom did not see the notice and cannot attend on July 12. Kristin will attend tomorrow in Tom's place and get notes ahead of time from Amanda and Tom regarding what to discuss. The meeting covers AAB activities for the past year (arts crawl, mixer, grant review), and this year (open house); as well as issues of concern (attendance, recruiting, vacancies). J. Davis said the City has a problem getting volunteers for boards and committees. Some people apply, then don't join or they join and then don't attend meetings. She also said volunteerism has changed in general. Younger people will volunteer for one event, but not to attend meetings. There is some confusion about how much authority committees and boards have on their own and when they need to get City Council approval. Council should always be kept aware of committee activities. Ms. Davis reminded us of the function of our City Council liaison. He is not required to attend our meetings, however, if we have questions or concerns, we can contact him for assistance. We had some ideas for recruiting volunteers:

- send appeals to contact lists (arts organizations, etc.)
- place a special ad once a year in News Review asking for volunteers
- write articles for News Review about committee and board activities
- hold a volunteer recruiting event where committee members can describe what they do
- advertise the benefits of serving on city committees (e.g., 50% discount on aquatic center membership)

Regarding specific AAB attendance issues, the AAB should let Council know if someone is not attending. The City Council will send letters to non-attendees thanking them for their service and letting them know their position has become vacant and will be filled by someone else. The board shared attendance concerns concerning current members with J. Davis.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting: There is no August meeting, but on August 1, Amanda will email AAB members for reports and feedback, especially regarding planning for October 1 Open Houses. All members should reply to the email, even if it is only "no comment."

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

AAB members include: Tatiana Ausema, John Drago, Oliver Gaycken, Shaymar Higgs, Tom LeaMond (Chair), Vijay Parameshwaran, Kristin Stenson, Barbara Stevens (Secretary)