

# **The City of Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board Informal Subcommittee Meeting**

August 6, 2013

## **Present:**

Board Members: Tatiana Ausema (Chair), John Drago, Gale Martineau, Anna Socrates (Secretary), Shane Wisdom, Virginia Zanner

Staff Liaison: Nicole DeWald

Council Liaison: Konrad Herling

Guests: Molly Lester, Bill Orleans

## **Absent (prior notice not required this month):**

Tiahna Nugent; Oliver Gaycken, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Cassandra Harper

Meeting focus for informal subcommittee:

- I. Discussion of the Mayor's proposal to change the contribution group program by phasing out program and grandfathering in existing groups.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

AAB wants to bring its concerns about proposed changes to the city and be part of any discussion about the program if changes are to be contemplated for the FY15 budget.

Concern about effect of changes to the program on arts activity in Greenbelt, including the formation of new arts groups in newer parts of the city.

Encouragement of idea that contribution group status can be used to leverage funds from other grantmaking organizations, such as foundations, and from county and state agencies. Conversely, perhaps not having the city approval can send a signal to other organizations and agencies that a group is not worth funding.

Should arts groups be handled differently than the types of programs that PRAB funds? Are there some overlapping issues?

Some ideas – limited grants, grants for programming expenses, grants for joint projects involving several groups could be given priority over grants involving a single group. Ways to help groups develop grant writing and fundraising skills.

Subcommittee agreed to have Anna Socrates draft a letter to city that would raise the following points:

1. Requesting that AAB be part of the discussion and be notified of any changes before September 20, in time for getting on the agenda of the October AAB meeting.
2. Reiterate that AAB favors maintaining a Contribution Group program, but could provide input if Council chooses to open up the program structure for discussion.
3. Program should be open to new groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

*Approved by acclamation: 10/1/2013*