

City of Takoma Park
Arts and Humanities Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 23, 2018

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, in the Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Tommy Parlon (Chair), Allie Reyes-Pinkston (Vice-Chair), Kevin Adler, Eric Gordon, Marilyn Sklar, Gloria Tseng-Fischer, Courtney Tompkins (Secretary), Madona Tyler LeBlanc, and John Warren

Members Absent: Emily Dufton, Ebonee Harllee, Nandi Henderson, Joelle Rabion, Susan Strasser

Staff Present: Brendan Smith, Arts and Humanities Coordinator

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Tommy Parlon at **7:03 pm**.

Welcome, Introductions and Commissioner Announcements

Members of the Commission informally updated the group on their recent activities.

Minutes – September 26, 2017

A motion was made by Allie Reyes-Pinkston, seconded by Gloria Tseng-Fisher, to approve the minutes of the Sept. 26, 2017 meeting as presented.

Holiday Art Sale

Brendan Smith presented a report about the 2017 Holiday Art Sale with a summary of the event, including marketing efforts, budget, results from a vendor survey, and recommendations for the 2018 sale, including a small fee for vendors. Smith will send a PDF of the report with the minutes from this meeting.

We Are Takoma

Smith provided information on upcoming *We Are Takoma* events, and commissioners were encouraged to attend the events. Smith showed some updates to the city website which provides links to the Facebook events. Commissioners were encouraged to volunteer for events and help promote them.

Marilyn Sklar expressed concern about the March lecturer David Rotenstein. Montgomery County Parks Department has called his research into question. Sklar suggested that perhaps a police officer should be present since Rotenstein can sometimes make controversial statements.

Calls for Proposal Selection Committee

Calls for proposals are due February 5th. Volunteers were sought to serve on a Selection Committee that will review proposals submitted for future *We Are Takoma* events. Kevin Adler, Eric Gordon, Marilyn Sklar, Madona Tyler LeBlanc and Gloria Tseng-Fischer volunteered to review proposals on February 20th at 7pm. That meeting will be held in the Lilac Room, not the usual location in the Hydrangea Room.

Cultural Plan Work Session

A work session to review the cultural plan was scheduled at 7pm on Tuesday, Feb. 13 in the Hydrangea Room. The updated cultural plan will be emailed to all commissioners by Feb. 5.

Events in April

Smith asked commissioners to email him (brendans@takomaparkmd.gov) any recommendations for a lecturer on Thursday, April 5, that is related to civil rights as part of a month-long effort in April to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. Gordon suggested asking Susan Strasser if she has any suggestions or is available to give a lecture.

Openings

We have two openings on the Commission. The openings can be filled by non-residents as the majority of the current commissioners live in Takoma Park. Commissioners were asked to forward any recommendations to Smith.

Miscellaneous Items

Smith announced that an American Primitive Guitar concert is scheduled on March 16, and a two-day American Primitive Guitar festival will be held on April 14-15. The concert is part of the *We Are Takoma* series, while the festival is being organized by Rhizome with support by city staff. The city has agreed to waive the rental fee for Rhizome to use the auditorium for the festival.

There also is a proposal to rename the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium as the John Fahey Memorial Auditorium. Fahey was the founder of the American Primitive Guitar style. He also was a Takoma Park native who founded the influential Takoma Records label in 1959. This proposal is in the very early stages of discussion.

Sklar inquired about the Pump House Pop-Up installation, where the paper artwork has peeled away from the small building because of heavy rains. It is not a public art site

sponsored by the commission but was supported by a city. Smith said that the artists are planning to come back to reattach the artwork, and there is a sign about the repair efforts on the side of the installation to inform the public about the pending repairs.

Allie Reyes-Pinkston asked about the status of new public art sites that commissioners had suggested in the fall. Smith said will look into it and provide an update soon.

Sklar informed commissioners about a Storm Drain Art Contest in Wheaton that is open to all Montgomery County residents.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **7:40 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted
Courtney Tompkins, Secretary