

City of Takoma Park
Arts and Humanities Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 27, 2018

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 in the Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Tommy Parlou (Chair), Allie Reyes-Pinkston (Vice-Chair), Eric Gordon, Marilyn Sklar, Madona Tyler LeBlanc, Joelle Rabion, and Emily Dufton

Members Absent: Kevin Adler, Gloria Tseng-Fischer, Ebonee Price, Susan Strasser, Courtney Tompkins (Secretary), and John Warren

Staff Present: Sara Anne Daines, Housing & Community Development Director, and Brendan Smith, Arts and Humanities Coordinator

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Tommy Parlou at **7 pm**.

Minutes – January 23, 2018

A motion was made by Eric Gordon, seconded by Allie Reyes-Pinkston, to approve the minutes of the Jan. 23, 2018 meeting as presented.

Cultural Plan Update

The Commissioners reviewed the final copy for the 2018 Cultural Plan, and Gordon agreed to help with the graphic design. Sara Daines said the Cultural Plan will be presented to the City Council for approval in May. Marilyn Sklar suggested the creation of a video summarizing the key points of the Cultural Plan that could be used on Youtube and City TV. Daines said Staff would discuss it with the City TV department.

***We Are Takoma* Series Update/Call for Volunteers**

Brendan Smith spoke about the upcoming *We Are Takoma* events, including a lecture, film screening, and poetry reading in April that memorialize Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his death. Daines said a Doodle poll could be emailed to the Commissioners seeking volunteers to give introductions at upcoming events.

Poet Laureate –Call for Nominations, Volunteers for Nomination Committee

Smith provided an update about the call for poet laureate nominations, which is posted on the city website with a May 4 deadline. Daines said a committee will be formed to review the nominations and recommend an applicant to the Commission. The

committee will include current Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler and possibly one or two former poet laureates. Madona Tyler LeBlanc volunteered to serve on the committee.

Calls for Proposals – Poetry Reading Series and Art Exhibitions

Smith said proposals are still being sought from poets for future Third Thursday Poetry Readings and from artists to show their work in 2019 group exhibitions in the galleries at the Community Center. Links to the online submission forms and more info about the programs are available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

Public Art Program

Daines said proposals could be sought for future public art projects from a list of 62 artists collected from previous calls. Possible projects include new sculpture, murals, artistic wraps for utility boxes or electric car charging stations, light shows, tile work, audio or video installations, stormwater drain paintings, a new bus stop shelter on Flower Avenue, or benches. Some remaining funds are available in the current budget for small projects, and \$60,000 has been budgeted for the 2018-19 fiscal year that begins July 1, 2018. Staff will review the list of artists and seek proposals for small public art projects that could be done with the remaining 2017-18 funds.

American Primitive Guitar Festival

The American Primitive Guitar Festival will be held in multiple venues across the city from April 13-15. Smith said the city waived the auditorium fees so the festival's main performances can be held in the auditorium on April 14-15. The festival is charging for weekend or day passes but will simulcast the auditorium performances for free in the Azalea Room. The festival is being organized by Rhizome and co-sponsored by the City of Takoma Park and Main Street Takoma. More information about the festival is available at www.1000rose.org.

Commission Vacancies and Upcoming Re-appointments

Daines said there are two vacancies on the Commission that need to be filled. At least one of the two new Commissioners must be a city resident. Staff have received one application, and Commissioners may publicize the application form available at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/>. On June 30, 2018, the three-year terms for Parlon, Sklar, and Strasser will expire so they should apply for re-appointment soon if they wish to keep serving on the Commission.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **7:45 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted
Brendan Smith