

Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2023

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee met on May 23, 2023, via Zoom.

Members Present: Linette Lander, Ramon Sola, and John Warren

Members Absent: Taylor Johnson, Leslie Sapp, Rick Henry, and Jose Luis Diaz

Staff Present: Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2023 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Upcoming Takoma Park Arts Events

Brendan Smith provided updates on upcoming events, including the *Wellspring of Poetry* reading on June 1. The *Celebrating Sligo Creek* art opening reception will be held on June 15 featuring work by two photographers and one mixed-media artist. The Friends of Sligo Creek will have a table at the opening to share info about their environmental work.

The *Celebrating Rhizome* event will be held on June 30 with the screening of the *Rhizome Is Home* documentary, a Q&A with the film director, and a short experimental music concert.

Smith said the Free Little Art Gallery needs some art supplies. Linette Lander recommended that Committee members create their own artwork to include in the gallery and for promotional materials to be shared at nearby apartment buildings.

Lander said the founder of the GALA Hispanic Theatre had died. She suggested that the City of Takoma Park offer some type of remembrance. Smith said the City Council focuses on organizations in Takoma Park, and the theater is located in D.C.

Repainting of Tables at B.Y. Morrison Park

Two tables at B.Y. Morrison Park that were painted by artist Chris Pyrate have become weathered with cracked and peeling paint. Ramon Sola recommended a local artist who does representational work mostly of Black women. Lander said that theme might not fit the park and some plant designs could feature the history of B.Y. Morrison, a local resident who was the first director of the National Arboretum.

Warren suggested that the proposed artist could look at the park and propose some concept. Smith said it might help to issue a call for artists with the Takoma ARTery artists group.

Scheduling of Future *Takoma Park Arts* Performances

Future performances for the 2023-24 season will be scheduled soon with a shift to Friday evenings for some events with hopes of attracting larger audiences.

Call for Poetry Submissions

Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson will oversee the creation of a subcommittee to issue a call for poets to select poets to be featured in future *Takoma Park Arts* poetry readings.

Annual Report

The Committee's annual report will be completed soon before a draft copy is sent to the Committee. The final report will be emailed to the City Council and featured on the city website.

Maryland State Arts Council Grants

Smith applied for and received a \$4,600 grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. It is the third grant that he has received during the 2022-23 fiscal year with more than \$17,000 in funding for future public art projects or other arts-related expenses. The grants more than double the \$15,000 public art budget from the City Council for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.