

Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee Meeting Minutes July 25, 2023

The Arts and Humanities Committee met on July 25, 2023 in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Members Present: John Warren, Linette Lander, Taylor Johnson and Leslie Sapp

Members Absent: Rick Henry and Jose Luis Diaz

Staff Present: Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes from May 24, 2023 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Member Appointments

Brendan Smith said the City Council had reappointed Rick Henry and Jose Luis Diaz to second terms on the committee. The Council appointed Joshua Vickery as a new committee member.

Election of Secretary

The committee postponed the election of a secretary to the next meeting.

Presentation of Annual Report

Smith said the committee's 2022-23 annual report was finished and was emailed to the City Council and posted on the [city website](#).

***Celebrating Rhizome* Event Summary**

Smith said there was a good turnout for the *Celebrating Rhizome* event on June 30, which included a parade from the Rhizome arts center to the Takoma Park Community Center where the *Rhizome Is Home* documentary was screened with a Q&A with the film director. It was the last event of the 2022-23 *Takoma Park Arts* series before the summer break in July and August.

Schedule of Future *Takoma Park Arts Performances*

The schedule for the 2023-24 *Takoma Park Arts* series has been set and includes film screenings, concerts, theater, art exhibitions, and other free events at the Community Center.

Poet Laureate Updates

Committee member and Takoma Park Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson discussed the monthly poetry reading series he has organized at the People's Books bookstore in downtown Takoma Park. The readings will be held from 5-7 pm on the first Sunday of the month.

Johnson also is working with the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library to update the Spring for Poetry poster series.

Stocking Books in Little Libraries

Smith said help is still needed from committee members to stock the five little libraries that are part of a public art and literacy project that was organized by the Arts and Humanities Division.

Pop-Up Events with Cargo Trike

Smith and the arts intern organized an artmaking event for local children at the Crossroads farmers market on July 19 in a partnership with the city library that was promoting their programs. Smith said he hopes more pop-up events can be planned at locations across the city.

Future Public Art Projects

The committee discussed some subcommittee recommendations about potential new public art projects. Smith said the city library also may be planning a project to feature artwork by local residents or community groups on the fencing around the construction site for the new library at the Community Center.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.