

Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee Meeting Minutes Sept. 26, 2023

The Arts and Humanities Committee met on Sept. 26, 2023 in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Members Present: John Warren, Linette Lander, Taylor Johnson and Joshua Vickery

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

Staff Present: Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2023 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of Secretary

Joshua Vickery was unanimously elected as secretary.

Promotion for *Takoma Park Arts* Events and Installation of New Banner

Brendan Smith asked Committee member to help promote the upcoming *Takoma Park Arts* events, including the *Dancing Joy* film screening on Sept. 29, the *Curving Lines* abstract art exhibition opening on Oct. 5, and the *Class: The Carla Perlo Story* film screening on Oct. 19.

A new banner promoting the *Takoma Park Arts* series was designed by Arts Intern Jessica Padilla and was installed in Veterans Park near the Takoma Park Community Center.

Upcoming Public Art Projects and Library Construction Fence Project

Smith said he was working on a call for submissions for a sculptural installation outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center with a theme of “welcome” or “crossroads”.

The library is considering a project to install banners painted by local residents or groups on the fence surrounding the construction site for the new library at the Community Center. Smith said he was providing some advice but the project would be led by library staff if it is implemented.

Discussion about Resident-Led Public Art Projects

The committee discussed the possibility of resident-led public art projects that would be initiated and privately funded by city residents or groups. Some concerns that were raised are a shortage of staff time to oversee such projects and economic disparities both in the location and types of projects. Some groups would be able to fund their own public art projects while other groups wouldn't have sufficient resources. There is no city funding available to fund any projects.

John Warren said the Committee already had a process for approving public art projects and any requests for resident-led public art projects could be brought before the Committee for consideration. Committee members voted unanimously to use existing procedures to consider any resident-led public art projects.

Committee Member Schedules for Stocking Little Libraries

Smith asked Committee members to confirm their schedules to regularly inspect and restock the five little libraries that are part of a public art and literacy project.

Painting of Tables at B.Y. Morrison Park

Smith said two tables at B.Y. Morrison Park had weathered and needed repainting. The tables had previously been painted as part of a public art project to revitalize the park. Smith said there wasn't staff time to pursue the project at this time but it could be revisited in the future.

Takoma ARTery Art Fair and Possible Art Exhibition at the Community Center

Smith said he might organize an art exhibition next year with the Takoma ARTery, but it would depend on the construction schedule for a remodeling of the Police Department that would impact the available gallery spaces in the Community Center. He said he was awaiting confirmation about the construction schedule before proceeding with planning for an exhibition.

The Takoma ARTery also has discussed holding an art fair in the spring possibly in the parking lot at the co-op. Smith said he was providing some advice but the art fair would be organized and funded by the Takoma ARTery.

Poetry Readings at People's Book and Poetry Posters Project

Taylor Johnson provided info about the poetry reading series that he and his wife are organizing at the People's Book store in downtown Takoma Park. He also is working with some students to design new posters to be installed in various locations as part of the Spring for Poetry series.

Hiring of New Arts Intern and Resolution to Increase Pay Rate

The arts intern resigned after four months of the yearlong internship because of low pay and a lack of benefits for the part-time position. Smith said he was able to get the hourly intern rate increased by \$1 per hour to \$18 to \$20 per hour, but it may still be difficult to find another intern with the adequate level of experience at that pay rate. He shared the job application link and asked Committee members to recommend anyone who may be a good fit for the position.