

Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee Meeting Minutes Dec. 5, 2023

The Arts and Humanities Committee met on Dec. 5, 2023 in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Members Present: John Warren, Linette Lander, Joshua Vickery, Jose Luis Diaz

Members Absent: Rick Henry and Taylor Johnson

Staff Present: Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Public Comments

There were no public comments. A local resident who may be interested in applying to serve on the committee attended the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Sept. 26, 2023 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved with one amendment to note that a college student attended the meeting.

Upcoming *Takoma Park Arts* Events

Brendan Smith asked Committee members to keep promoting the Sounds of Silents film screening on Dec. 8. It is the last Takoma Park Arts event in 2023.

The *Takoma Park Arts* event schedule for the spring in 2024 includes an improv musical performance, concerts, a one-man play celebrating Langston Hughes and other events. Smith encouraged members to attend and help promote them.

Committee members discussed parking options for events and informing people through the city website and Facebook event listings that they can park in the Piney Branch Elementary school parking lot since parking is limited at the Community Center because of the library construction. Smith said he is increasing the performance honorariums by \$100 per category which is based on the number of performers.

Linette Lander volunteered to reach out to Busboy and Poets to see if they would be willing to provide food for a reception after the Langston Hughes one-man play performance.

RFP for Sculptural Installation at the Takoma Park Recreation Center

Smith said the budget was being increased from \$20,000 to \$22,000 for a sculptural installation outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center.

Committee members discussed some edits to the call for submissions for the project as well as establishing a scoring rubric for equity and transparency.

2024 Project Timeline:

February 18- Submission deadline

March 26 - Arts and Humanities Committee meeting to score and select artist or finalists

April 10- Notification of selected artist

April-June- Awarding of contract and work to begin by June 30

Stocking Books in Little Libraries

Committee members reported on their work to inspect and stock the four little libraries that are part of a public art and literacy project organized by the Arts and Humanities Division.

Hiring of Graphic Designer and Staffing Issues

Smith said the search for a new arts intern has been put on hold because of difficulties in hiring and training a new intern every year. The former intern resigned after four months due to the low wages and lack of benefits for the position.

Smith said he is pursuing an increase in his weekly hours from 25 hours to 32 hours as well as hiring a freelance graphic designer to design event posters and other projects. Smith asked Committee members to share any recommendations for graphic designers. Jose Luis Diaz said the graphic design projects should be fee-based instead of on an hourly rate.

Lander said the Committee should approve a resolution to support the increase in Smith's hours if needed to recognize his work leading the Arts and Humanities Division.

Possible Takoma ARTery Exhibition at the Community Center

Smith said he would be planning an art exhibition with the Takoma ARTery arts group if a construction project in the atrium won't start before May 30, 2024. The current exhibition ends in late February and a new exhibition could feature multiple local artists who are involved in the ARTery, which has received previous city grants to support their work.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.