

**City of Takoma Park
Arts and Humanities Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, in the Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Susan Strasser (Chair), Eric Gordon (Vice-Chair), Kevin Adler, Emily Dufton, Abraham Joyner-Meyers, Madona Tyler LeBlanc, Tommy Parlon, , Charlene Porter, Allie Reyes-Pinkston, Cami Schaeffer, Gloria Tseng-Fischer, and Courtney Tompkins

Members Absent: Nandi Henderson, Joelle Rabion

Staff Present: Sara Anne Daines, Housing & Community Development Director
Marilyn Sklar, Art Coordinator

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Strasser at 7:02 pm.

Welcome, Introductions and Commissioner Announcements

Members of the Commissioners welcomed new Commissioners and informally updated the group on their recent activities.

Minutes - March 28, 2017

A motion was made by Parlon, seconded by Rabion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting as presented.

We Are Takoma

Staff reminded commissioners of the forthcoming May 31 deadline for the Call for Proposals for the 2017-2018 season of the series. Sklar updated members on the recent increase in honorarium offered to selected lecturers and performers. Commissioners are encouraged to circulate notification of the deadline on neighborhood list-serves and to other potential applicants.

Commissioners reviewed the upcoming schedule for the series. Sklar explained that future series events will be available on the Takoma City TV Website, Takoma City TV's YouTube channel, and on the AHC Facebook page.

Members were invited to participate in the review and selection of humanities lecturers and performers. A subcommittee meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2017.

Public Art

Daines gave a progress report on the mural at Conway and Prince Georges Avenues. With several community painting events set in the new future, progress toward completion of this project should advance in the near future. Adler raised the point that this project had been delayed significantly from early completion projections and asked that potential delays be factored into such projections in the future.

The Holton Lane Mural is jointly sponsored by the City of Takoma Park, Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority and JBGR Retail, the owner of the building on which the mural is being painted. Public painting events have already been held, further events are scheduled, and the project is proceeding apace.

Poetry Month Update

Sklar described the outcome of an April project for National Poetry Month. #TKPKPoetry involved distribution of poems by local poets and surprise discovery of the poems by the public. The project did not receive as much participation as was hoped, probably because of limited lead time in planning. Members discussed various steps they'd taken in involve the community in the event, while setting a goal to increase planning time in future events.

Cultural Plan Update

Staff circulated a document containing all suggestions made by Commission members for a subcommittee draft of the plan. The Commission voted to defer to the subcommittee in the first review of all the suggestions, with a goal to re-submit a revised draft by the July meeting. The subcommittee agreed to meet for that review May 31. Various members expressed optimism about the progress made on the plan thus far, and thanked the subcommittee for its efforts.

FY18 Budget - Update

Daines reported that the City Council has approved an arts budget of \$17,280 for the upcoming fiscal year. While this figure is reduced slightly from the current fiscal year, it is still a significant increase since 2014. Outside of this account for AHC-monitored arts activities, the Council has also approved a budget of \$35,000 for public art.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Charlene Porter, Secretary