

**City of Takoma Park**  
**Arts and Humanities Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

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The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, in the Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park.

**Members Present:** Emily Dufton, Christoph Michaud, Tommy Parlon (Chair), Joelle Rabion, Marilyn Sklar, Courtney Tompkins, Gloria Tseng-Fischer

**Members Absent:** Eric Gordon, Ebonee Harlee, Madona Tyler LeBlanc, Kevin Adler, John Warren

**Staff Present:** Sara Daines, HCD Director

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### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Tommy Parlon at 7 pm.

### **Welcome, Introductions and Commissioner Announcements**

Members of the Commission informally updated the group on their recent activities.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Marilyn Sklar and seconded by Joelle Rabion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting as presented.

### **Holiday Art Sale**

Sara Daines gave a report on the sale. She encouraged the commission to review the vendor survey which provided some great insights. The PTA bake sale proved to be a success (in comparison to the food truck the year before). This was also the first year that vendors were charged a \$25 fee, which was not met with any objections. The commission decided to end the 2019 art sale at 3 pm instead of 4 pm since there is a significant drop in sales after 2 pm.

### ***We Are Takoma Cultural Series***

#### **Docs in Progress**

Docs in Progress is moving to their own facility in Silver Spring so they will only be screening films every other month at the Takoma Park Community Center.

## **Lectures**

Sklar provided some additional information about the lecture on February 7 titled "Josiah Henson: The Man Beyond the Myth." There is an opening for the March 7 lecture.

## **Poetry**

Daines and Arts Coordinator Brendan Smith are working with Takoma Park Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole on a Latin poetry night on April 7.

## **Proposals**

A call for proposals for lectures and performances in 2019 will be released soon.

## **Public Art**

It is currently too early to install the electric charging station wraps because of cold weather, but they will be installed in the spring. A call for new public art proposals will be issued soon.

Daines informed the commission that Smith wants to organize an installation of painted pianos throughout the city. He is currently working possibly with Richardson School of Music and investigating covered areas where the pianos could be installed. Sklar suggested hiring musicians for pop-up performances. Parlon suggested that the musicians could be students. Daines encouraged the group to consider possible locations and sources of pianos. Daines also said the painting of the pianos could be part of the project. Sklar suggested the installation could be for one to two months.

The octopus will be removed from the clock at the end of February. The head has slowly deflated with all of the rain and snow. The caterpillars on New Hampshire are faring better, and they will also be removed in late February. The commission commented said they were glad the fiber installations reached their life expectancy.

## **Cultural Plan**

The new cultural plan, "Empowering A Creative Community: A Vision for 2018 - 2023," was approved by the City Council on Dec. 5, 2018. The council was very impressed with the presentation by the commission and the organization of the cultural plan. Only one small change was made in the version approved by the City Council. Daines and the commission agreed with the change.

Daines has started setting up meetings with different departments that will play a role in the implementation of this citywide plan. Daines and Smith are starting to work on the shortterm implementation. They will report back to the committee on the progress. Daines encouraged the commission to brainstorm ideas for shortterm implementation.

## **Internship**

Yeny's internship ends on Feb. 5. A posting for a new intern will be published on the city's website soon. The internship includes hourly compensation and is open to undergrads and recent graduate students. The internship is 20 hours per week, but Daines is requesting a change to 30 hours per week.

## **Grant Opportunities**

The new cultural plan outlines the need for more grant proposals and greater support for STEAM programs. A new grant program was posted for STEAM projects/programs that benefit low-middle income Takoma Park residents. The program does not need to take place in the city, but it does need to be accessible to these residents. Daines also mentioned that the city has a new online system to manage grant applications.

## **Budget**

Daines has upcoming meetings about the FY20 budget. She hopes to increase funding to \$15,000 for programming. She also wants to increase honorariums for performers. The city manager will be presenting the preliminary budget in April. There will be two open houses for residents to ask questions and advocate for budget items. Commissioners are encouraged to advocate for the Arts and Humanities budget items.

## **Commission Meeting Schedule**

Daines confirmed the upcoming regular commission meeting dates and times with the commission's approval.

## **Commission Membership**

We currently have 11 individuals on the commission, with four vacant positions. There have been some recent applications and all are encouraged to spread the word.

## **Miscellaneous Items**

The "Night of 1,000 Fridas" is taking place in Takoma Park and D.C. this Friday night.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
Courtney Tompkins, Secretary