

City of Takoma Park
Arts and Humanities Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in the Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Eric Gordon, Jon Frederick, Nancy Illman, Christoph Michaud, Tommy Parlon (Chair), Joelle Rabion, Marilyn Sklar, Courtney Tompkins, Gloria Tseng-Fischer, Madona Tyler LeBlanc, John Warren

Members Absent: Emily Dufton and Ebonee Harlee

Staff Present: Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Tommy Parlon at **7:03 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 Courtney Tompkins to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting as presented.

Public Art

Octo-Gone Contest

Smith said there were many submissions for the contest, and the deadline was extended to April 8.

Car Charger Wraps

The electric vehicle station vinyl wraps will be installed soon downtown and in the parking lot of the Community Center.

Public Pianos

Smith is looking into the possibility of installing a temporary public piano project with one piano downtown and another in the Langley area. There are many logistics that still need to be worked out.

We Are Takoma Cultural Series

Performances

Forty-three performance proposals were received, and the finalists will be reviewed by a subcommittee including Rabion, LeBlanc, Parlon, Tseng-Fischer, and Tompkins.

Lectures

Nine lecture proposals were received, and Smith selected five lectures to fill the remainder of the calendar year. Warren provided a brief summary of his upcoming lecture.

Change of Name and Logo

The “We Are Takoma” name is vague and doesn’t reference Takoma Park. The logo also is outdated so the name for the arts and culture series will be changed to “Takoma Park Arts.” Michaud and Gordon agreed to help with designing a new logo.

Volunteers for Future Events

Smith asked if any commissioners would like to introduce any of the spring events.

Cultural Plan

Sklar asked what we need to start working on in to implement the cultural plan. Smith will look at some of the short term goals and present some items at the May meeting.

Internship

Yeny’s internship ended. There are three applicants that have upcoming interviews.

Commission Membership

Two spots are open but they must be city residents. Commissioners were encouraged to promote the vacancies with their contacts.

Art Hop

Gordon asked if we could we have an Arts and Humanities Commission table at Art Hop. We have had representation at other Takoma Park festivals; but this is a Main Street Takoma event. Smith or Illman will reach out to the event coordinator to ask if we could set up a table somewhere along the Art Hop route.

Warren suggested giving away something besides candy. Commissioners suggested dried fruit or items with our new logo, such as pencils, magnets, etc.

Exhibition

Smith described some of the challenges with the recent video installation. Some of the work was damaged by kids, prompting concern about installing expensive pieces since this is a community center with lots of foot traffic and a variety of events and activities. The commission discussed some of the challenges of displaying artwork in a community center. Smith said exhibitions are booked for a year, but artists in future exhibitions after that period might be asked to sign contracts that would insure their work for half of the listed price since galleries typically charge a 50 percent commission.

Miscellaneous Items

The second floor will be covered in the atrium to create office space for the police department, which will eliminate the suspended installation rigging system due to height requirements. Efforts will be made to relocate the suspended installation space to the third-floor gallery.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **7:44 pm**.

Respectfully Submitted
Courtney Tompkins, Secretary