

**City of Takoma Park**  
**Arts and Humanities Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021**

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The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission met on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, in the Hydrangea Room.

**Members Present:** Ebonee Harlee, Tommy Parlon (Chair), Joelle Rabion, Courtney Tompkins, Gloria Tseng-Fischer, and John Warren

**Members Absent:** Bill Crandall and Jon Frederick

**Staff Present:** Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

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### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Tommy Parlon at **7 pm**.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by John Warren and seconded by Joelle Rabion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Committee Changes and Applying for Reappointment**

All committee members must reapply by Oct. 15 if they wish to continue to serve. The name will change to the “Arts and Humanities Committee” to align with other committees. Term limits are changing from two three-year terms to three two-year terms. Non-city residents can apply, but city residents will be given preference. The city has received a number of applicants.

Five current members are resigning due to various work or family commitments, including Ebonee Harlee, Courtney Tompkins, Gloria Tseng-Fischer, Bill Crandall, and Jon Frederick. Brendan Smith and the other commissioners thanked them for their service and their many contributions to the arts in Takoma Park.

### **Promotion of New *Takoma Park Arts* Events**

The opening for the *Uniting Us* art exhibition will be held on Sept. 30 featuring artwork by veterans from across the country. The exhibition will end in December. On Nov. 10, an artist talk with some of the veteran artists is being planned to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Future exhibitions have not been rescheduled yet due to unknown issues involving the Delta variant.

On Oct. 14, a film screening about musicians in Louisiana prisons will be held with a Q&A with the film director from Georgetown University. On Oct. 22, the *Takoma Park Arts series* will host a Dance Exchange event with a film screening and interactive installation.

### **Sidewalk Poetry Project Updates**

Five sidewalk poems have been stamped with more planned on Maple Avenue. Howard University's video department is planning to film a segment on the project. John Warren suggested adding the sidewalk poems to the Takoma Park public art map. Some commissioners noted that the map is difficult to find on the city website.

There are 15 more sidewalk poetry stamps to install. Each poem is one large plate, and there is a learning curve about the correct time to press it into the drying concrete.

### **Planning for Holiday Art Sale on Dec. 4**

Smith said he is meeting with his supervisors next week to discuss the Holiday Art Sale and whether it will have to be canceled due to COVID concerns relating to the Delta variant. A large indoor event hasn't been hosted in the Community Center since before the pandemic. Smith said he would like to hold the event but doesn't want to spend months of staff time organizing the sale if it's going to be canceled later.

Some commissioners suggested having vendors and members of the public show proof of vaccination or having fewer vendors. Smith said the decision will be up to the new city manager and he will provide an update after a decision has been made.

### **Future Calls for Poetry Readings, Film Screenings and Performances**

Smith said that new calls will need to be issued next year for performances, poetry readings, and possibly film screenings in the *Takoma Park Arts series*. All of the poetry readings that had been scheduled were held online during the pandemic, along with some film screenings.

Smith said he has several film screenings and performances that are scheduled now through the spring of 2022.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at **7:45 pm**.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
Courtney Tompkins, Secretary